

AP Exclusive: US SOLDIER TO PLEAD GUILTY IN MASSACRE

GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — The U.S. Army staff sergeant charged with killing 16 villagers in one of the worst atrocities of the Afghanistan war will plead guilty to avoid the death penalty in a deal that requires him to



Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales at Fort Irwin, Calif.
(AP Photo/Ryan Hallock)

recount the horrific attack for the first time, his attorney told The Associated Press.

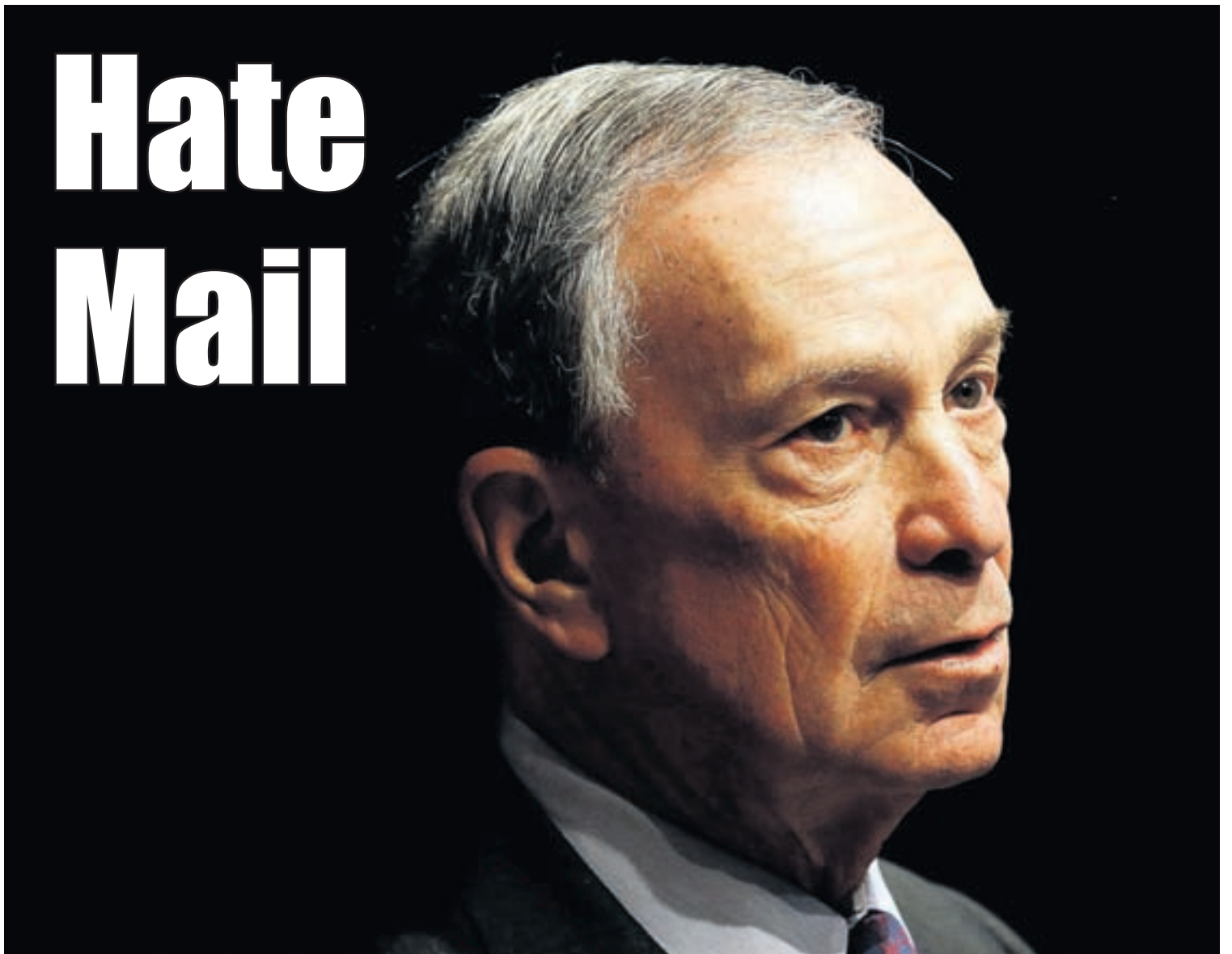
Robert Bales was "crazed" and "broken" when he slipped away from his southern Afghanistan outpost in March 2012 and attacked mud-walled compounds in two sleeping villages nearby, lawyer John Henry Browne said Wednesday. But his client's mental state didn't rise to the level of a legal insanity defense, Browne said.

The Army had been trying to have Bales executed, and Afghan villagers have demanded it. In interviews with the AP last month, relatives of the victims became outraged at the notion Bales might escape the death penalty.

"For this one thing, we would kill 100 American soldiers," vowed Mohammed Wazir, who had 11 family members killed that night, including his mother and 2-year-old daughter.

Continued on Page 6

Hate Mail



New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg speaks at a gun violence summit at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore. Police said Wednesday, May 29, 2013, that threatening letters containing traces of the poison ricin were opened Friday, May 24, 2013 at New York City's mail sorting facility and Sunday, May 26, in Washington at the headquarters of the nonprofit started by Bloomberg, Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Both were addressed to Bloomberg and contained threats referencing the debate on gun laws.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

Cops: Letters to Bloomberg test positive for ricin

COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Two threatening letters sent to New York City's mayor and his group that advocates for gun control contained traces of the deadly poison ricin, police said Wednesday. The anonymous letters were opened in New York on Friday at the city's mail facility and in Washington on Sunday at an office used by Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a nonprofit started by Michael Bloomberg to counter the powerful U.S. gun lobby.

Both the letters contained threats to Bloomberg and

an oily pinkish-orange substance, New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne said.

He would not comment on what specific threats were made or where the letters were postmarked.

Browne said preliminary testing indicted the presence of ricin in both letters but that more testing would be done.

A mayor's spokesman, also speaking for the nonprofit, said he had no comment. Bloomberg has been one of the country's most visible gun control advocates since the December shooting of 20 young children and six adults at

a Connecticut school with a legally purchased, high-powered rifle.

Bloomberg's group supports political candidates who support gun control, an effort to counter the National Rifle Association, which pressures politicians to follow its point of view. The people who initially came into contact with the letters showed no symptoms of exposure to the poison, but three officers who later examined the New York letter experienced some minor symptoms that have abated, police said. Word of the letters comes about a month after letters containing ricin were ad-

dressed to President Barack Obama, a U.S. senator and a Mississippi judge.

A Mississippi man was arrested in that case.

Browne would not say whether the letters were believed to be linked to any other recent ricin cases. Federal officials were investigating.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, ricin is a poison found naturally in castor beans.

Symptoms can include difficulty breathing, vomiting and a redness on the skin depending on how the affected person comes into contact with the deadly poison. □

AROUND THE WORLD

Prosecutor seeks jail for Dolce, Gabbana

MILAN (AP) — A Milan prosecutor is seeking a two year and six month sentence against the designing duo Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana for allegedly failing to declare 1 billion euros (\$1.3 billion) in income to tax authorities. Prosecutor Gaetano Ruta told a court during closing arguments Wednesday that the pair had evaded taxes on 416 million euros each and 200 million through a Luxembourg-based company. The designers deny the charges. A verdict is expected later this month. A judge two years ago threw out a tax evasion and fraud case against the pair, whose label Dolce&Gabbana is a mainstay of Milan fashion. □

Argentina: Iran infiltrating South America

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The Argentine prosecutor who accuses former Iranian officials of masterminding the 1994 bombing of a Buenos Aires Jewish center is now accusing Iran of infiltrating South America to carry out terrorist attacks. Alberto Nisman said Wednesday that Iran's government is setting up intelligence networks in Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Surinam and Trinidad and Tobago. Nisman says the main person responsible for this operation is Mohsen Rabbani, the former cultural attache at the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires at the time of the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Center that killed 85 people. □

UN: Congo's M23 rebels firing on Goma

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — A United Nations spokesman says that Congo's M23 rebels have fired several rockets on the eastern city of Goma, killing two people. The military spokesman of the United Nations mission in Congo, Lt. Col. Felix Basse, said Wednesday that in the past week the M23 rebels fired five rockets that hit the Mugunga camp for displaced people, killing one. Basse said two other rockets were fired by the rebels on the Ndoshoh neighborhood of Goma, killing one civilian, and wounding four others. Basse also said that civilians in the territory controlled by the M23 are threatened by looting, kidnapping and other violations of human rights. □

Puerto Rico governor signs gay rights bills

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico's governor has signed a bill that prohibits employment discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation. Alejandro Garcia Padilla said Wednesday that he met his obligations as a Christian by signing the bill and congratulated legislators on approving the proposal. The original measure would have also banned discrimination in commercial transactions, property rentals, public transportation and other circumstances. Those clauses were removed after heavy opposition by religious groups. Garcia also signed a separate bill that extends a domestic violence law to gay couples. □

Gates urges Australia to boost foreign aid

SYDNEY (AP) — Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates is urging Australia to boost foreign aid following the country's announcement that it was delaying a pledge to increase overseas aid spending. Gates made his plea during a speech in the capital Canberra on Tuesday. He said that although Australia has been relatively generous, more money is needed for vital medicine and agricultural developments. Australia said this month it was postponing by two years a long-standing pledge to increase its foreign aid spending to 0.5 percent of gross national income by 2015-16. Australia's foreign aid budget will increase to 0.37 percent in the next fiscal year. □

VP Biden pushes trade, security in Brazil

MARCO SIBAJA
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — U.S. Vice President Joe Biden lavished praise on the advances Brazil has made in recent years, saying during a Wednesday speech that the Latin American giant is no longer a developing nation, but one that is developed and the envy of many for its leaps forward. Biden is on the final leg of a six-day swing through Latin America and the Caribbean, a trip meant to foster deeper trade and diplomatic ties and pave the way for a state visit to

ger than Russia," said the vice president.

Biden met with officials from state-run energy company Petrobras after his speech at the Maua pier in downtown Rio, continuing a push on energy issues that he also addressed during earlier stops in Trinidad & Tobago and Colombia. In Washington, the White House said it will roll out the red carpet to welcome Rousseff for a state visit in October. Rousseff and Obama met at the White House in April 2012, and during Obama's visit to Brazil two years ago.

former leader Fernando Henrique Cardoso, and massive social spending implemented by Rousseff's predecessor and political mentor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, have helped transform Brazil.

"In 20 years you have written a great story. You broke inflation. Lifted 40 million people out of poverty and into the middle class," Biden said mentioning Brazil's social programs such as "Zero Hunger" which he said are "studied and copied around the world."

"The rest of the world looks at you with envy,"



U.S. Vice President Joe Biden speaks in front of cranes at Rio de Janeiro's port in Brazil, Wednesday, May 29, 2013. Biden is in Brazil on the last leg of a six-day swing through Latin America and the Caribbean to boost trade, security and diplomatic relations.

the U.S. by Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff later this year. "No longer can Brazil talk about being an 'emerging' country. You have emerged, you have engaged and you have had a positive impact on the world," Biden said, citing the country as an example in terms of food security and the recent write-off of about \$900 million in African debt. "Brazil has long since taken its place as one of the world's leaders. It is the seventh-largest economy in the world — bigger than India and big-

White House spokesman Jay Carney said Rousseff's Oct. 23 visit will also include the first state dinner of Obama's second term, an important diplomatic acknowledgment of Brazil's growing might.

Brazil emerged from a 1964-85 military dictatorship only to be hit with repeated economic crises and hyper-inflation that most harshly punished the impoverished, widening an already yawning gap between rich and poor. But an economic plan put in place in the mid-1990s by

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano) he added. "You can no longer claim you are a developing nation. You have developed and with that comes the responsibility to speak up."

Biden planned to tour a slum on Thursday before a meeting with Rousseff on Friday in Brasilia.

Earlier this week in Colombia, Biden praised that government's security advances. He arrived in Brazil from Trinidad & Tobago where he met with leaders from across the Caribbean to sign a trade agreement. □

NEWSBREAK

Arrest made in Disneyland dry-ice blast

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California (AP)

— Police arrested a Disneyland employee on suspicion of putting a so-called dry ice bomb in a theme park trash can, where it exploded, authorities said Wednesday.

No one was injured in the small blast, but Disneyland briefly evacuated the Mickey's Toontown section where Tuesday's incident occurred.

Christian Barnes, 22, was arrested just hours after the blast for investigation of possessing a destructive device, Anaheim police Sgt. Bob Dunn said in a statement.

It wasn't immediately clear how police connected Barnes to the blast, and Dunn did not return calls. Police had said they would scrutinize social media and surveillance footage.

Disneyland spokeswoman Suzi Brown released a statement Wednesday saying Barnes will be suspended or fired.

Barnes, who worked as an outdoor vendor, was held on \$1 million bail and is cooperating with investigators, Dunn said.

Detectives found fragments of a water bottle in the trash can and believe Barnes placed dry ice inside it to create the explosion, the police spokesman said. So-called dry ice bombs are easy to make, and the size of the explosion can vary greatly depending on the container's size, material and the amount of dry ice used, said John Goodpaster, an explosives expert at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. The devices could cause injuries to those nearby if the built-up pressure is high enough, including cuts from flying bottle shards, Goodpaster said.

"This is a simple device. It's not a pipe bomb filled with gunpowder, but it definitely will generate an explosion," Goodpaster said. □

AP sources:

Obama to name ex-Bush official Comey to FBI

NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is preparing to nominate former Bush administration official James Comey to head the FBI, people familiar with the decision said Wednesday.

Three people with knowledge of the selection said Obama planned to nominate Comey, who was the No. 2 in President George W. Bush's Justice Department. The three people spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the selection ahead of Obama's announcement, which was not expected immediately.

Comey became a hero to Democratic opponents of Bush's warrantless wiretapping program when Comey refused for a time to reauthorize it. Bush revised the surveillance program when confronted with the threat of resignation by Comey and current FBI Director Robert Mueller, who is stepping down in September.

Comey's selection was first reported by NPR and was not expected to be announced for several days at least.

Comey was deputy attorney general in 2005 when he unsuccessfully tried to limit tough interrogation tactics against suspected terrorists.

He told then-Attorney General Alberto Gonzales that some of the practices were wrong and would damage the department's reputation.

Some Democrats denounced those methods as

nized crime and the war on drugs.

As an assistant U.S. attorney in Virginia, Comey handled the investigation of the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers housing complex near Dhahran, Saudi

sies — an episode that focused attention on the administration's controversial tactics in the war on terror. In stunning testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee in 2007, Comey said he thought Bush's no-warrant



Deputy Attorney General James Comey gestures during a news conference in Washington. President Barack Obama is preparing to nominate former Bush administration official James Comey to head the FBI, people familiar with the decision said Wednesday, May 29, 2013.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

torture, particularly the use of waterboarding, which produces the same sensation as drowning.

Earlier in his career, Comey served as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, one of the nation's most prominent prosecutorial offices and one at the front lines of terrorism, corporate malfeasance, orga-

Arabia, that killed 19 U.S. military personnel.

Comey led the Justice Department's corporate fraud task force and spurred the creation of violent crime impact teams in 20 cities, focusing on crimes committed with guns.

Comey was at the center of one of the Bush administration's great controver-

wiretapping program was so questionable that Comey refused for a time to reauthorize it, leading to a standoff with White House officials at the bedside of ailing Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Comey said he refused to recertify the program because Ashcroft had reservations about its legality. □

Police: Maine man staged kidnap that killed girl

CLARKE CANFIELD

DAVID SHARP

Associated Press

BANGOR, Maine (AP) — A man used a fake Facebook account to lure a teenage girl out of her house in an attempt to stage her kidnapping and rescue so he could look like a hero but ended up killing her, a state police affidavit released Wednesday said.

Kyle Dube was indicted Wednesday on charges of murder and kidnapping in the death of 15-year-old Nichole Cable, whose body was found in a wooded area this month a week

after she went missing.

In an affidavit released after Dube was indicted, Detective Thomas Pickering outlined the scenario leading to the high school sophomore's death. He wrote that Dube told his brother that he used Facebook to trick her into going out of her house while he waited in the woods wearing a ski mask.

When Nichole came along, the 20-year-old Dube jumped out and snatched her, duct-taped her and put her in the back of his father's pickup truck, the affidavit said. Dube later

discovered that she was dead, so he dumped her body and covered it with branches, it said.

The affidavit doesn't go into details about how Nichole was duct-taped, and the cause of her death is still being determined by the medical examiner's office. Dube told his brother that he "intended to kidnap Nichole and hide her; that he would later find her and be the hero," Pickering wrote.

Dube's attorney, Stephen Smith, did not immediately return a phone call left at his office Wednesday eve-

ning. He had argued for the affidavit to be withheld, citing threats against Dube in jail, concerns about whether he could get a fair trial and fears for the privacy of his relatives.

Earlier on Wednesday, Justice William Anderson had denied a motion by The Associated Press and the Portland Press Herald to unseal the affidavit on First Amendment grounds.

The judge's original order had sealed the affidavit only until Dube was indicted. When the indictment was handed down, the affidavit was made public. □

RI Gov. Chafee will join democratic party

KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

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BOSTON - Gov. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, the only independent governor in the nation, plans to switch to the Democratic Party as he faces a tough re-election fight next year. Chafee, who served in the U.S. Senate as a Republican, had discussed the possibility of becoming a Democrat for months and spoke last year at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

He was unavailable for comment Wednesday, but a spokesman, Christian Vareika, confirmed the news after it was first reported by Politico. Vareika said Chafee would announce his decision Thursday morning in his hometown, Warwick. He said the governor had concluded that "the priorities and principles that have guided him throughout his career align with the Democratic Party's," particularly with regard to public education, job creation and equal rights.

With three-fourths of voters disapproving of his job performance and the state's economy limping along, analysts say that becoming

a Democrat may be Chafee's best shot at winning re-election. His apparent hope is that as a Democrat, President Barack Obama will step in on his behalf and help him through a difficult primary. Chafee and Obama, who overlapped in their short

again in 2012.

In turn, Obama stayed out of the Rhode Island governor's race in 2010 and did not endorse the Democratic candidate "out of respect for his friend Lincoln Chafee," an Obama spokesman said at the time.



Gov. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island (above), the only independent governor in the nation, plans to switch to the Democratic Party as he faces a tough re-election fight next year.

(Handout Photo)

Senate careers, have developed a supportive relationship. Chafee backed Obama in his battle against Hillary Clinton in the Democratic presidential primary in 2008 and supported him

In a statement issued Wednesday through the Democratic National Committee, Obama said, "I'm delighted to hear that Gov. Chafee is joining the Democratic Party." But he gave

no hint as to whether he would endorse anyone in a Democratic primary.

By contrast, Gov. Peter Shumlin of Vermont, chairman of the Democratic Governors Association, indicated in a statement that the association would stay neutral in any intramural battle. "We are excited to welcome Gov. Chafee to the ranks of Democratic governors and look forward to enthusiastically supporting whoever emerges as the Democratic nominee in Rhode Island," he said.

At the moment, Chafee's prospects for re-election seem fairly low. Various Democrats are lining up to run against him, including two potentially strong contenders: Gina Raimondo, the state treasurer, and Angel Taveras, the mayor of Providence.

"His move comes from thinking, 'If I don't switch parties, I'm going to lose anyway,'" said Wendy Schiller, a political scientist at Brown University. "And maybe as a Democrat, the president can come out for him wholeheartedly or at least help dry up the funding for the other candidates." □

Women as family breadwinner is rising, study says

CATHERINE RAMPELL

© 2013 New York Times

The share of mothers who bring home the bacon is on the rise.

Four in 10 households with children under age 18 now include a mother who is either the sole or primary breadwinner for her family, according to a Pew Research Center report released Wednesday. This share, the highest on record, has quadrupled since 1960.

It has become more acceptable and expected for married women to join the work force. At the same time, it is more common for single women to raise children on their own. Most of those mothers who are chief breadwinners for their families - nearly two-thirds - are single parents. The recession may have also played a role in pushing women into primary earning roles, as men are disproportionately employed in industries like construction and manufacturing that bore the brunt of the layoffs during the downturn.

Women's attitudes toward working have also changed in the last few years. In 2007, before the recession officially began, 20 percent of mothers told Pew that their ideal situation would be to work full-time rather than part-time or not at all. The share had risen to 32 percent by the end of 2012.

The public is still divided about whether it is a good thing for mothers to work. About half of Americans say that children are better off if their mother is at home and doesn't have a job. A new working paper by economists at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the National University of Singapore found that, in looking at the distribution of married couples by income of husband versus wife, there is a sharp drop-off in the number of couples in which the wife earns more than half of the household income. □

Judge delays decision on Fort Hood suspect

ANGELA K. BROWN

Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) —

The U.S. Army psychiatrist charged in the deadly 2009 shooting rampage on a Texas military base has the mental capacity to represent himself at his murder trial, but more information is needed about his physical condition, a judge said Wednesday in delaying the suspect's request.

At a pretrial hearing, Maj. Nidal Hasan did not say why he wants to cut ties with his attorneys, a request he suddenly made last week. If granted, he could come face-to-face with and question the nearly three dozen soldiers he's accused of wounding in the Nov. 5, 2009, attack on the Texas Army post.

The military judge, Col. Tara Osborn, said she won't decide on Hasan's request

until his doctor examines him and testifies at a hearing Monday. Hasan is paralyzed from the waist down after being shot by police the day of the rampage. Hasan faces the death penalty or life in prison without parole if convicted of 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder. Military law allows defendants to represent themselves.

It's unclear if Monday's hearing will delay jury selection that's set for next week. It is expected to last about four weeks, with testimony in the court-martial starting in July. Prosecutors have about 300 witnesses and plan to present mounds of evidence, including emails that Hasan, an American-born Muslim, exchanged with a radical U.S.-born Islamic cleric

killed in Yemen in 2011 by a drone strike.

In late 2010, a three-person board of military medical professionals conducted a mental evaluation of Hasan after reviewing documents in the case. They determined whether Hasan had a severe mental illness at the time of the shooting, and if so, his clinical psychological diagnosis; whether that prevented him from knowing at the time that his alleged actions were wrong; and if he was competent to stand trial.

The findings of the report have never been released. Osborn referred to the report Wednesday, saying it showed that Hasan has the sufficient mental competency to understand legal proceedings and can represent himself or assist in his defense.

But she spent most of the

30-minute hearing questioning Hasan about his medical issues. Hasan said his last doctor's exam was in June, and since then, jail nursing staff take care of his medical needs. He said the only medicine he takes is over-the-counter painkillers periodically.

He had refused to be examined at Fort Hood's hospital because of concerns that one particular doctor would be biased, but then withdrew his objections Wednesday after another doctor was chosen to do the exam.

John Galligan, Hasan's former lead attorney before his client dismissed him two years ago, said Hasan has no physical limitations that would prevent him from representing himself. Hasan seems to have full use of his arms and can roll his own wheelchair. □

US teacher trial pits Catholicism, artificial insemination

LISA CORNWELL

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — A U.S. teacher fired from Catholic schools after becoming pregnant through artificial insemination tearfully told jurors Wednesday she didn't know that the procedure violated church doctrine.

Christa Dias sued the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the schools over her 2010 dismissal, contending they fired her because she was pregnant and unmarried. Her attorney, Robert Klingler, said the firing violated federal law prohibiting pregnancy discrimination.

The archdiocese's attorney, Steve Goodin, has denied any discrimination and told jurors Dias was fired for violating a contract that required her to abide by



Christa Dias holds her 11-month-old daughter in her Withamsville, Ohio home. Dias, a teacher who was fired from Catholic schools in 2010 after becoming pregnant through artificial insemination, testified Wednesday, May 29, 2013 in her federal lawsuit against the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati and two schools. She told jurors that she didn't know the procedure violated church doctrine or that she could be fired for it.

(AP Photo/Gary Landers)

Catholic doctrine.

The archdiocese has said artificial insemination violates that doctrine and is immoral.

Human resources director William Hancock said Wednesday that premarital sex also violates doctrine and that he would recommend firing a male employee for impregnating an unmarried woman. Dias said she is a Christian but not Catholic and was told that didn't matter when she was hired to teach computer classes. She said she thought the contract clause requiring compliance with church philosophies meant she should try "to be a Christian woman and follow the Bible."

Her lawsuit alleges church policy is not enforced equally against men and women. A man formerly

employed in youth ministry within the archdiocese testified Tuesday that some church officials were aware that he and his wife used artificial insemination and that he was not disciplined. Dias' attorney also has stressed that Dias, who is gay, had always known she wanted to have a child and opened the trial by showing jurors a photo of her now 2-year-old daughter.

While Dias' lawsuit does not claim that she was fired over her sexual orientation, Goodin noted that "the evidence will show that Dias never really intended to abide by the contract." He said she kept the fact that she was gay a secret because she knew the church doesn't approve of homosexual acts. "That all goes to her credibility," he said. □

Wife sorry for trusting Philadelphia abortion doctor

MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The wife of a Philadelphia abortion doctor, a cosmetologist who admitted helping him perform very late-term abortions at his corrupt, grimy clinic, said Wednesday that she was sorry for trusting her husband and was sentenced seven to 23 months in prison.

Pearl Gosnell had pleaded guilty to racketeering and performing an illegal abortion past Pennsylvania's 24-week limit.

She said her husband, Kermit, told her the abortions were all performed within the legal limit and she believed him.

He was convicted this month of first-degree murder in the deaths of three infants born alive.

The case became a flashpoint in the polarized U.S. abortion debate. Abortion foes said it exposed the true nature of abortion in all its disturbing detail. "I am the wife of Kermit Gosnell, I am not happy about that now and I haven't been for a long time," Pearl Gosnell, 51, said at her sentencing Wednesday, when a judge gave her seven to 23 months in prison, minus nearly three months for time served after her 2011 arrest.

Gosnell lashed out at her husband, saying he refused to take a plea deal that would have spared her prison and saved the family home, and called him cowardly refused to speak at his sentencing. By choosing to take the cowardly course that he

did, my husband has left me to make the apologies," Gosnell told a judge. "My husband is in jail forever, which is where he

should be."

A trained cosmetologist, she reaped the financial rewards of her husband's busy abortion and pain

clinic, and lied about the \$250,000 in cash found stashed in their teen daughter's bedroom, a prosecutor said. □



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AP Exclusive: US soldier to admit Afghan massacre

Continued from front

Most of the victims were women and children, and some of the bodies were piled and burned.

The killings drew such angry protests that the U.S. temporarily halted combat operations in Afghanistan. It was three weeks before U.S. investigators could reach the crime scenes.

Any plea deal must be approved by the judge as well as the commanding general at the U.S. base where Bales is being held. A plea hearing is set for June 5, said Lt. Col. Gary Dangerfield, an Army spokesman. He said he could not immediately provide other

details.

"The judge will be asking questions of Sgt. Bales about what he did, what he remembers and his state of mind," said Browne, who told the AP the commanding general has already approved the deal. A sentencing-phase trial is set for September.

Browne previously indicated Bales remembered little from the night of the massacre. But as further details and records emerged, Bales began to remember what he did, the lawyer said, and he will admit to "very specific facts" about the shootings.

Browne would not elaborate on what his client will

tell the judge.

Bales had been drinking contraband alcohol and snorting Valium that was provided to him by another soldier and had been taking steroids before the attack.

Testimony at a hearing last year established that Bales returned to his base between attacking the two villages, woke up a fellow soldier and confessed. The soldier didn't believe him and went back to sleep, and Bales left again to continue the slaughter.

Browne said his client, who was on his fourth combat deployment, was suffering

from post-traumatic stress disorder and a traumatic brain injury. He continued to blame the Army for sending him back to war in the first place.

"He's broken, and we broke him," Browne said.

The massacre raised questions about the toll multiple deployments were taking on U.S. troops. For that reason, many legal experts believed it that it was unlikely that he would receive the death penalty. The military justice system hasn't executed anyone since 1961. The defense team, including military lawyers assigned to Bales, eventually determined after having

him examined by psychiatrists that he would not be able to prove any claim of insanity or diminished capacity at the time of the attack, Browne said.

Browne acknowledged the plea deal could inflame tensions in Afghanistan and said he was disappointed the case has not done more to focus public opinion on the war.

"It's a very delicate situation. I am concerned there could be a backlash," he said. "My personal goal is to save Bob from the death penalty. Getting the public to pay more attention to the war is secondary to what I have to do." □

Chemical source of US train derailment, explosion

BEN NUCKOLS

Associated Press

ROSEDALE, Maryland (AP)

— A hazardous chemical in a rail car was the source of an explosion on a derailed U.S. train that sparked a fire, rattled homes and damaged buildings, train operator CSX Transportation said Wednesday. A company spokesman said officials weren't sure what caused the sodium chlorate to explode, but it ignited another chemical in a second car.

In the third serious derailment in the United States this month, a dozen or so rail cars went off the tracks Tuesday in a Baltimore suburb after colliding with a truck at a crossing. The fire was under control by Wednesday. Only one person — the garbage truck driver — was seriously injured.

Despite the recent accidents, U.S. railroads are safer than ever. The number of train accidents fell

43 percent to 1,712 between 2003 and last year as railroads invest in their equipment and in techno-

logical tools to help detect problems. "Last year was the safest year on record for the railroad industry," said Feder-

al Railroad Administration spokesman Warren Flatau. In Tuesday's accident, CSX spokesman Gary Sease



A fire burns at the site of a CSX freight train derailment, Tuesday, May 28, 2013, in White Marsh, Md., where fire officials say the train crashed into a trash truck, causing an explosion that rattled homes at least a half-mile away and collapsed nearby buildings, setting them on fire.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

um chlorate is used mainly as a bleaching agent in paper production. Oklahoma State University chemist

spilled fuel. Baltimore County's Public Safety Department said hazardous materials experts did not believe the burning chemicals would produce toxic inhalants.

But a National Institutes of Health website says oxidizers such as sodium chlorate may produce irritating, corrosive and/or toxic gases when burned. Toxic inhalation hazards are a worry when trains carrying hazardous materials derail. They include chemicals such as chlorine, which killed nine people after a derailment of a Norfolk Southern train caused a release of the toxic gas in South Carolina in 2005.

Robert Sumwalt, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, said investigators were reviewing train video that might show Tuesday's collision. Sumwalt said the collision occurred at a private crossing where the only marking was a stop sign. □

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Lawmaker Bachmann says will not seek re-election



Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., chair of the Tea party Caucus, center, speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/Molly Riley)

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP) — Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, the staunchly conservative ex-presidential candidate who once said Barack Obama might harbor “anti-American” views, said Wednesday she will not seek re-election in the House of Representatives.

Bachmann, whose penchant for provocative rhetoric made her a favorite among the conservative tea party movement, said in a video on her website that her unexpected decision not to run in 2014 had nothing to do with concerns about being re-elected. She left the door open

to other, unspecified political options. Bachmann also said recent inquiries into her 2012 presidential campaign finances did not affect her decision. The foster-mom-turned politician was traveling in Russia as part of a congressional delegation and was not available for interviews.

The Minnesota congresswoman narrowly won a fourth term in 2012 over her Democratic rival. Republicans, who hold a narrow majority in the House, could have an easier time holding on to the seat in 2014 without the polarizing Bachmann on the ticket. Bachmann, who won the

seat in 2006, gained prominence with the rise of the tea party, whose limited-government agenda she heartily championed in Congress long before other Republicans saw its political potential. She tried to harness the tea party energy with her presidential campaign in 2012. □

Study:

Immigrants give more to Medicare than receive

SABRINA TAVERNISE
 © 2013 New York Times

Immigrants have contributed billions of dollars more to Medicare in recent years than the program has paid out on their behalf, according to a new study, a pat-

tern that goes against the notion that immigrants are a drain on federal health care spending. The study, led by researchers at Harvard Medical School, measured immigrants' contributions to

the part of Medicare that pays for hospital care, a trust fund that accounts for nearly half of the federal program's revenue. It found that immigrants generated surpluses totaling \$115 billion from 2002

to 2009. In comparison, the American-born population incurred a deficit of \$28 billion over the same period. The findings shed light what demographers have long known:

Immigrants are crucial in

balancing the age structure of American society, providing an infusion of young, working-age adults who support the country's aging population and help cover the costs of Medicare and Social Security. □

Syria FM: Assad will remain president until 2014

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's foreign minister laid out a hard line Wednesday, saying Bashar Assad will remain president at least until elections in 2014 and might seek another term, conditions that will make it difficult for the opposition to agree to U.N.-sponsored talks on ending the civil war. Any deal reached in such talks would have to be put to a referendum, Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem added in a TV interview, introducing a new condition that could complicate efforts by the U.S. and Russia to bring both sides together at an international conference in Geneva, possibly next month. Drawing a tough line of its own, the main exile-based political group, the Syrian National Coalition, reiterated that any negotiations require "the head of the regime, security and military leadership to step down and be excluded from the political process." While the Assad regime has agreed in principle to attend peace talks, the opposition has not, insisting it first get international guarantees on the agenda and timetable. The coalition

has been meeting for the past week in Turkey but spent most of that time arguing about membership issues, rather than making a decision about Geneva. In his wide-ranging comments, al-Moallem, an Assad stalwart with decades in top positions, reflected a new confidence by the government. The regime had seemed near collapse during a rebel offensive last summer but has scored a number of battlefield successes in recent weeks. "Our armed forces have regained the momentum," he told the Lebanese station Al-Mayadeen, suggesting that the regime is digging in. Asked when the civil war might end, he said: "That depends on when the patience of those conspiring against Syria will run out." The uprising against Assad began in March 2011, turned into an armed insurgency in response to a harsh regime crackdown, and escalated into a civil war. The fighting has killed more than 70,000 people, uprooted more than 5 million and devastated large areas of the country. The conflict has taken on

strong sectarian overtones — most of the armed rebels are Sunni Muslims, a majority in Syria, while Assad has retained core support among the country's minorities, including his own Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, along with Christians and Shiite Muslims. Both the regime and

the opposition still bet on a military victory but are being pressured by their backers to attend the Geneva talks, the international community's only plan at the moment for trying to end the war. Chances of success seem slim, with a host of issues remaining open, including a

detailed agenda, the list of participants and a mechanism for implementing any possible agreement. Al-Moallem introduced what appeared to be a new Syrian condition Wednesday, saying that "anything agreed on in Geneva will be held to a referendum in Syria." □



Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, May. 26, 2013. al-Moallem laid out a hard line Wednesday, insisting that Bashar Assad will remain Syria's president at least until elections in 2014, and might run for another term.

(AP Photo/Hadi Mizban, Pool)

Abbas under pressure to restart peace talks

JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestinian president has told advisers that as the U.S. tries to restart Mideast peace talks, he is under intense international pressure to return to negotiations with Israel and drop demands for a Jewish settlement freeze in the West Bank, officials said Wednesday. In a closed meeting, Mahmoud Abbas lamented his difficult choice: Rebuff the Americans and alienate Washington, or cave in and face an uproar at home. Aides say Abbas expects a formal proposal to renew talks from U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in coming weeks. "There is pressure on us from international par-

ties who are saying we should give the Americans a chance," said Hana Amireh, a member of the Palestine Liberation Orga-

nization's decision-making executive council, who attended Tuesday's late-night meeting. Since taking office early

this year, Kerry has devoted significant efforts to restarting peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, which broke down nearly five years ago. He has visited the region four times, most recently last week, in search of a formula acceptable to both sides. The Palestinians object to Israel's continued settlement of the West Bank and east Jerusalem, occupied territories that they hope to make parts of a future state. Israel captured both territories in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians say they will not restart talks unless Israel halts settlement construction and accepts the pre-1967 lines as the basis for a future border. Two past Israeli leaders have accepted those lines

as a starting point for negotiations, but the offers did not result in a peace accord. Unlike his predecessors, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refuses to commit to the pre-1967 lines. He says talks should resume without any conditions. "We applaud Secretary Kerry's efforts," Netanyahu said Wednesday at a meeting with visiting U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez. "I stand ready to resume negotiations immediately, and I think there's an abiding interest to achieve a secure peace." Following talks with both sides last week, Kerry urged both sides to compromise. He voiced U.S. opposition to settlement construction and called on Israel to stop building wherever possible. □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, center, Israeli President Shimon Peres, right, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas all shake hands during the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa at the Dead Sea in Jordan.

(AP Photo/Pool, Jim Young)



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Report:

Pakistani Taliban commander said killed in US strike

ASIF SHAHZAD
RASOOL DAWAR
Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — A suspected U.S. drone strike killed the No. 2 commander of the Pakistani Taliban on Wednesday, Pakistani intelligence officials said, although the militant group denied he was dead.

If confirmed, the death of Waliur Rehman would be a strong blow to the militant group responsible for hundreds of bombings and shootings across Pakistan. The United States has a \$5 million bounty out on Rehman, who Washington has accused of involve-



Taliban No 2 commander Waliur Rehman talks to the Associated Press during an interview in Shawal area of South Waziristan along the Afghanistan border in Pakistan. Pakistani intelligence officials say a U.S. drone strike has killed the commander of the Pakistani Taliban. The militant group denies he is dead.

(AP Photo/Ishtiaq Mahsud)

ment in the 2009 suicide attack on a U.S. base in Afghanistan that killed seven Americans working for the CIA.

Missiles fired by a U.S. drone slammed into a house early Wednesday in Miran Shah, the main town of the North Waziristan tribal region, killing five people including Rehman, Pakistani officials said.

Two officials said their informants in the field saw Rehman's body, while a third said intelligence authorities had intercepted communications between militants saying Rehman had been killed. The officials spoke on condition of

anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

A spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban denied the reports.

"This appears to me to be false news. I don't have any such information," said Ahsanullah Ahsan.

White House spokesman Jay Carney declined to confirm if Rehman was dead. He said if the reports were true, Rehman's death would deprive the militant group of its chief military strategist involved in "horrific attacks" on a CIA base in Afghanistan and other attacks against Pakistani civilians and soldiers. □

DNA, video led to arrest in French soldier attack

GREG KELLER
LORI HINNANT
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — DNA traces on an orange juice bottle and a surveillance video of a man praying in a mall led to the arrest Wednesday of a young suspected Islamic extremist accused of stabbing a French soldier patrolling a crowded area just outside Paris, officials said. The attack came days after a British soldier was slain on a London street in broad daylight, raising fears of potential copycat attacks. The case also brought into question what authorities knew about the suspect, identified by police as Alexandre Dhaussy, because he had been tracked over several years.

France has been on heightened security alert since its military intervention in January in the west African nation of Mali to oust Islamic radicals.

The French soldier attacked on Saturday is recovering from his injuries and has been released from the hospital.

The suspect was captured on camera offering a Muslim prayer in a corner of a busy shopping mall 10 minutes before he went after the soldier Saturday at the La Defense financial and shopping district, French prosecutor Francois Molins said Wednesday at a news conference in Paris.

The 22-year-old Frenchman bought the juice and the pocketknife used in the attack an hour beforehand, Molins said.

"The intent to kill is obvious. The suspect doesn't hesitate to stab several times with impressive determination," Molins said.

The suspect was arrested Wednesday morning outside Paris at the house of a friend who hasn't been implicated. □



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China:

Mother of newborn raised initial alarms for rescue

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The mother of the Chinese newborn trapped in a sewer pipe in a stunning ordeal caught on video had raised the initial alarm and was present for the entire two-hour rescue but did not admit giving birth until confronted by police, reports said Wednesday. The state-run, Hangzhou-based newspaper Dushikuaibao said police became suspicious when they found baby toys and blood-stained toilet paper in the 22-year-old woman's rented room in the building where Saturday's rescue occurred in eastern China. The woman, whose name was not revealed in state media reports, confessed to police when they asked her



A nurse checks on baby No. 59, so named because of his incubator number in the hospital, in Pujiang county, in eastern China's Zhejiang province. The mother of the Chinese newborn trapped in a sewer pipe in a stunning ordeal caught on video had raised the initial alarm and was present for the entire two-hour rescue but did not admit giving birth until confronted by police, reports said Wednesday. (AP Photo)

to undergo a medical checkup. The woman told police she could not afford an abortion and secretly delivered the child Saturday afternoon in the toilet. She said she tried to catch the baby but he slipped into the sewer line and that she alerted her landlord of the trapped baby after she could not pull the child out, the Jinhua-based Zhezhong News said. Video of the rescue of Baby No. 59 — so named because of his incubator number in the hospital — was shown on Chinese news programs and websites starting late Monday and picked up worldwide, prompting both horror and an outpouring of charity on behalf of the newborn. The mother's reported confession raises questions about whether she intended to abandon the baby, while suggesting that she was desperate and did not know what to do. Zhezhong News said the woman is a high school graduate who works at a restaurant in the Zhejiang province city of Jinhua. She said she became pregnant after a one-night stand with a man who later denied any responsibility. The woman did not reveal the pregnancy to her parents. She also said she wanted to raise the child but had no idea how to do it, according to local reports. Firefighters were called to the residential building in the Pujiang area of Jinhua to rescue the baby, which was trapped in an L-shaped section of sewage pipe just below a squat toilet in one of the building's public restrooms.□

France's first gay marriage broadcast to nation

C. GASCHKA

T. ADAMSON

Associated Press

MONTPELLIER, France (AP)

— In a historic ceremony broadcast live on French television, the first gay couple to marry in France said "oui," then sealed the deal with a lengthy and very public kiss.

Hundreds of invited guests including a government minister gathered for the moving ceremony Wednesday inside city hall in southern French city of Montpellier. Hundreds more flocked to the square outside the building as Vincent Autin, 40, and his 30-year-old partner, Bruno Boileau, were wed. The politically charged ceremony was held under

tight police surveillance — a stark reminder of the months of bruising opposition to the new gay marriage law that French lawmakers passed earlier this month.

Although the marriage itself went undisrupted, outside the city hall it was not trouble-free.

A plainclothes policeman dragged back one protester on Wednesday who shouted threats and tried to approach the couple as they were being escorted into the building, before the ceremony. Police also used tear gas to push back a small group of demonstrators who gathered behind the city hall.

"Even if we have passed the hurdle of equality, there

are still more battles to fight... But for now, it's a moment for festivity, for love," Autin said after exchanging vows. Some cried, others smiled as Frank Sinatra's hit "Love and Marriage" blasted out, marking them tying the knot.

The two men then walked hand-in-hand to the city hall balcony to wave to well-wishers alongside Montpellier Mayor Helene Mandroux, who officiated at the ceremony. Smiling proudly, Mandroux called the marriage a "historic moment" and "a stage in the modernization of our country."

The two men, who will adopt the names "Messieurs Bruno et Vincent Boileau-Autin," were holding

a separate, private ceremony later Wednesday for close friends and family.

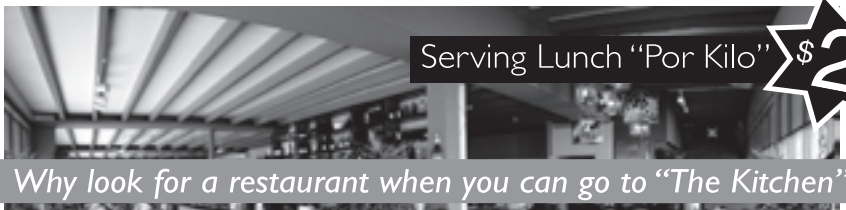
"Many people have been waiting for this law on marriage and adoption. Now, it's done. Many people are going to be doing as we did, and celebrating their unions... We are very pleased and honored," said Boileau.

It is not clear yet when the first gay adoption will take place.

News of the marriage will not be welcomed in every corner of France. Just last Sunday, tens of thousands of people protested fiercely in Paris against the new gay marriage law, demonstrations that ended with riot police shooting tear gas.□

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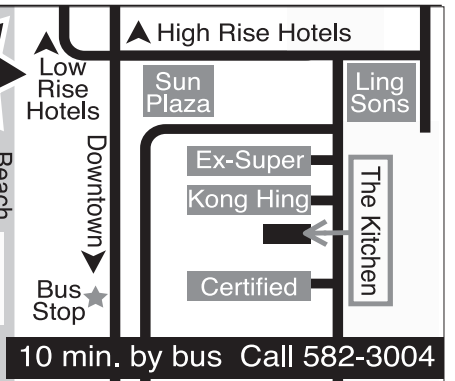


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OECD: Europe remains major threat to world economy

GREG KELLER

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The recession in Europe risks hurting the world's economic recovery, a leading international body warned Wednesday. In its half-yearly update, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said that protracted economic weakness in Europe "could evolve into stagnation with negative implications for the global economy."

The OECD again slashed its forecast for the economy of the 17-country eurozone, saying it will shrink by 0.6 percent this year, after a 0.5 percent drop in 2012. The OECD had predicted a 0.1 percent decline for the eurozone in its report six months ago — and this time last year, it forecast growth of nearly 1 percent for 2013. The U.S. economy will continue to outpace Europe, the OECD said, with growth of 1.9 percent in 2013 and 2.8 percent in 2014. For global gross domestic product, the OECD forecasts an increase of 3.1 percent for this year and 4 percent for 2014.

Noting that eurozone policymakers have "often been behind the curve," the OECD warned that Europe was still beset by "weakly capitalized banks, public debt financing requirements and exit risks." Meanwhile, the eurozone's 12.1 percent unemployment rate "is likely to continue to rise further ... stabilizing at a very high level only in 2014," the OECD said. The report predicts unemployment will reach 28 percent in Spain next year and 28.4 percent in Greece. □

EU eases pace of austerity to help economy

JUERGEN

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union softened its demands for austerity Wednesday when it gave France, Spain and four other member states more time to bring their deficit levels under control so that they can support their ailing economies. The EU Commission, the 27-nation bloc's executive arm, said

BAETZ

placency."

After Europe's crisis over too much debt broke in late 2009, the region's governments slashed spending and raised taxes as a way of controlling their deficits — the level of government debt as a proportion of the country's economic output. But austerity has also inflicted severe economic pain. Slashing spending and raising taxes have proved to be less effective

The Netherlands and Portugal are now granted one additional year, whereas France, Spain, Poland and Slovenia are granted two additional years each. Some critics, however, insisted the Commission's softening of austerity wasn't enough to kick-start growth and fight unemployment. "Today's report amounts to a confession of grave mistakes," said Hannes Swoboda, leader

of the European Parliament's center-left caucus. "The European Commission is at last facing reality but is still refusing to draw the logical conclusions and change its course," he added, calling for the budget trimming to be stretched out over 10 to 15 years instead.

Europe is stuck in a recession that has led to an increasingly bitter debate over the merits of austerity as a way to solve the region's economic problems. With rising unemployment, there is a growing consensus that governments must shift their policies toward fostering growth to end the downward economic spiral, even in countries like Germany that have long insisted vehemently on rigorous fiscal policies. The new measures, however, do not mean that Europe has abandoned its message of austerity and strict budgetary discipline altogether. Moreover, bailed-out Greece,



European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso gestures while speaking during a media conference at EU headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday, May 29, 2013. The European Union announced Wednesday to grant France, Spain and four other member states more time to bring their budget deficits under control to support the bloc's shrinking economy.

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

the countries must instead overhaul their labor markets and implement fundamental reforms to make their economies more competitive. Issuing a series of country-specific policy recommendations in Brussels, Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said that the pace of reform needed to be stepped up across the EU to kick-start growth and fight record unemployment. "We need to reform, and reform now. The cost of inaction will be very high," Barroso said. "There is no room for com-

at reducing deficits than initially thought. As economies shrink, so do their tax revenues, making it harder to close those budget gaps. Besides France and Spain, the Commission is also granting the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia more time to bring their deficits below the EU ceiling of 3 percent of annual economic output. That means they will be allowed to stretch out spending cuts over a longer time as they try to fight record unemployment and recession.

of the European Parliament's center-left caucus. "The European Commission is at last facing reality but is still refusing to draw the logical conclusions and change its course," he added, calling for the budget trimming to be stretched out over 10 to 15 years instead. Europe is stuck in a recession that has led to an increasingly bitter debate over the merits of austerity as a way to solve the region's economic problems. With rising unemployment, there is a growing consen-

Ireland, Portugal and Cyprus still have harsh deficit targets they have to meet to continue getting bail-out loans. Barroso rejected suggestions that the Commission bowed to political pressure and switched focus away from austerity. Singling out France, the 17-nation eurozone's second-largest economy, as an example of how the EU is still keeping an eye on its members' economies, Barroso said that "this extra time should be used wisely to address France's failing competitiveness," he added. □

Myanmar:

Buddhist mobs spread fear among Muslims

TODD PITMAN

Associated Press

LASHIO, Myanmar (AP)

— It was a terrifying sight: hundreds of angry, armed men on motorcycles advancing up a dusty street with no one to stop them. Shouting at the top of their lungs, clutching machetes and iron pipes and long bamboo poles, they thrust their fists repeatedly into the air. The object of their rage: Myanmar's embattled minority Muslim community.

Residents gaping at the spectacle backed away as the Buddhist mob passed. Worried business owners turned away customers and retreated indoors. And three armed soldiers standing in green fatigues on a corner watched quietly, doing nothing despite an emergency government ordinance banning groups of more than five from gathering.

Within a few hours on Wednesday, at least one person was dead and four injured as this region of Myanmar became the latest to fall prey to the country's swelling tide of anti-Muslim unrest.

The violence over the past two days in the northeastern city of Lashio is casting fresh doubt over whether President Thein Sein's government can or will act to contain the racial and religious intolerance plaguing a deeply fractured nation still struggling to emerge from half a century of military rule. Muslims have been the main victims of the violence since it began in western Rakhine state last year, but so far most criminal trials have involved prosecutions of Muslims, not members of the Buddhist majority.

The rioting in Lashio started Tuesday after reports that a Muslim man had splashed gasoline on a Buddhist woman and set her on fire. The man was arrested. The woman was hospitalized with burns on her chest, back and hands.

Mobs took revenge by burning down several Mus-

lim shops and one of the city's main mosques, along with an Islamic orphanage that was so badly charred that only two walls remained, said Min Thein, a resident contacted by telephone. On Wednesday fires still smoldered at the ruined mosque, where a dozen charred motorcycles lay on the sidewalks underneath its white minarets. Army troops stood guard. The wind carried the acrid smell of several burned vehicles across town, and most Muslims hid

know what to think about it," she said. "More casualties are ... not good for anybody." The government, which came to power in 2011 promising a new era of democratic rule, appealed for calm.

"Damaging religious buildings and creating religious riots is inappropriate for the democratic society we are trying to create," presidential spokesman Ye Htut said on his Facebook page. "Any criminal act will be dealt with according to the law," he said.

Myanmar's sectarian violence first flared in western Rakhine state last year, when hundreds of people died in clashes between Buddhists and Muslims that drove about 140,000 others, mostly Muslims, from their homes. Most are still living in refugee camps.

This month, authorities in two areas of Rakhine announced a regulation limiting Muslim families to two children. The policy drew sharp criticism from Muslim leaders, rights groups and opposition leader Aung



Hundreds of Buddhists on motorcycles armed with sticks patrol in the streets of in Lashio, northern Shan State, Myanmar, Wednesday, May 29, 2013. Sectarian violence spread to a new region of Myanmar, with a mob burning shops in the northeastern town after unconfirmed rumors spread that a Muslim man had set fire to a Buddhist woman.

(AP Photo/Gemunu Amarasinghe)

in their homes.

When one group of thugs arrived at a Muslim-owned movie theater housed in a sprawling villa, they hurled rocks over the gate, smashing windows. They then broke inside and ransacked the cinema.

Ma Wal, a 48-year-old Buddhist shopkeeper across the street, said she saw the crowd arrive. They had knives and stones, and came in two separate waves.

"I couldn't look," she said, recounting how she had shut the wooden doors of her shop. "We were terrified."

A couple hours later, the mobs were gone and two army trucks and a small contingent of soldiers guarded the villa. "I don't

National police said nine people were arrested for involvement in the two days of violence, but didn't say if they were Buddhists or Muslims.

After nightfall, authorities could be heard issuing instructions on loudspeakers across the city, reminding residents a dusk-to-dawn curfew was in effect. The voice bellowing into the night also said: "You are prohibited from carrying sticks or swords or any kind of weapon."

A local freelance journalist, Khun Zaw Oo, said he was hit on the head with an iron pipe as he photographed mobs ransacking shops. He said he managed to flee but a companion also holding a camera was attacked and badly injured.

San Suu Kyi. U.S. State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell on Tuesday said the U.S. opposes coercive birth limitation policies, and called on Myanmar "to eliminate all such policies without delay."

The clashes had seemed confined to the Rakhine region, but in late March, similar Buddhist-led violence swept the town of Meikthila in central Myanmar, killing at least 43 people. Earlier this month, a court sentenced seven Muslims from Meikthila to prison terms for their role in the violence.

Several other towns in central Myanmar experienced less deadly violence, mostly involving the torching of Muslim businesses and mosques. □

Colombian rebel rejects deadline for peace talks

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP)

— A leading peace negotiator of Colombia's main rebel group has rejected the government's insistence that talks wrap up by November ahead of national elections, saying the president should not put his personal ambition ahead of the peace process. In an interview with The Associated Press, Marco Leon Calarca said his Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia were hopeful the months' long negotiations would lead to peace, and heartened that the two sides had reached agreement on the first major point of dispute between them: land reform. But he also said there could be no short-cuts and the issues that remain — including political reintegration, drug trafficking, victim compensation and implementation of the accord — are hard to resolve. "We hope the discussion will be more fluid," Calarca said in this week's interview. "But these are not simple themes, and for that reason they are on the agenda." Talks between Colombia and the FARC began in Oslo, Norway in October and have continued since the following month in the Cuban capital. Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, under pressure at home ahead of a reelection bid in May 2014, has said that he will pull out if no agreement is reached by November.

The bearded, corpulent Calarca is one of the principal negotiators at the talks and is also a member of the Marxist rebel group's ruling secretariat.

Observers say his electoral fate is likely tied to the success of the talks. They have pointed to his falling poll numbers as a factor that could aid the discussions, since the rebels presumably fear any progress made at the peace table would be wiped out if he Santos loses the vote. □



At the Aruba Marriott:

Enchanted destination wedding for Taline & David



PALM BEACH, ARUBA (May 24, 2013) – On Friday May 24, Taline Tahmassian and David Morais from Virginia, proclaimed their love to each other in presence of family and friends at the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino. Close family and friends joined Taline and David to realize their dream wedding in Aruba. The beach ceremony was followed by a reception at the La Vista Patio, where the married couple danced for the first time as Mr. and Mrs. Morais to "Mis Ojos" by Mana. Event Manager Simone Silooy and Banquets team ex-



ecuted the blessing wedding event. The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino congratulates the happy couple Morais and

wishes them the best of luck.

-Pictures provided by photographer Victor Winklaar. □

At Pure Ocean, Divi Phoenix: Brienne Cohen & Thomas Devine host a rehearsal dinner

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destination-wedding guests the group settled under the beach palapas for premium cocktails followed by a sumptuous BBQ



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Pictured here the lovebirds with the closest friends and family members at Pure Ocean. They also returned to Pure Ocean for mini sliders, and cocktails, as a post-wedding affair, says Inge Van Roon, Director of Banquet and Events Sales, Divi & Tamarijn All Inclusive & Divi Resorts. □



dinner buffet with interactive stations. Eleven of the couple's friends and relatives offered toasts and well-wishes, as the best,



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"The Americas" for Excellence in Airline Marketing during the annual ROUTES conference in Nassau, behind Boston Logan Interna-

tional Airport . During THE WORLD ROUTES held in Abu Dhabi, AAA was once more highly commended and achieved runner-up status in the even more appealing global category "Airports under 4 million passengers" for Excellence in Airline Marketing together with Friedrichshafen Airport (Germany) behind the absolute winner Darwin International Airport (Australia).

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Switzerland's Roger Federer eyes the ball as he returns against India's Somdev Devvarman in their second round match of the French Open tennis tournament, at Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday, May 29, 2013. Federer won in three sets 6-2, 6-1, 6-1.

Associated Press

Now things could get more interesting for Federer

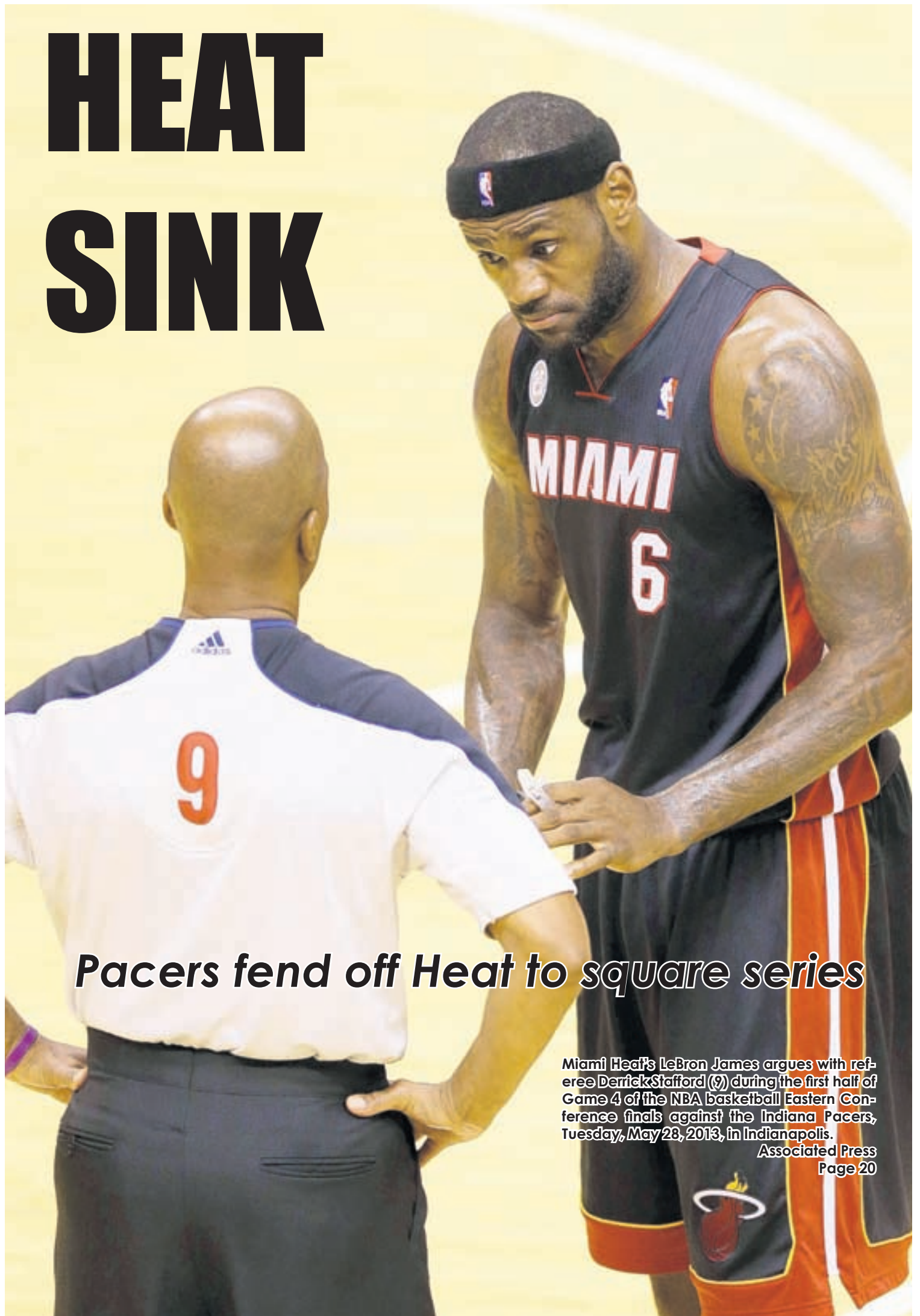
HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Now things could get a little more interesting for Roger Federer. After a pair of straightforward and straight-set victories at the French Open against qualifiers ranked outside the top 150, the 17-time major champion will face a seeded player, France's Julien Benneteau, who not only already beat Federer once this year but also came within two points of upsetting him at Wimbledon, of all places, in 2012.

"I think I'm playing OK," Federer said in something of an understatement, considering he's dropped 11 games through six sets so far.

Continued on Page 18

HEAT SINK



Pacers fend off Heat to square series

Miami Heat's LeBron James argues with referee Derrick Stafford (9) during the first half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals against the Indiana Pacers, Tuesday, May 28, 2013, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press
Page 20

McQuaid calls on Armstrong to tell all to UCI

STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)

— Cycling federation president Pat McQuaid is waiting for a visit and an apology from Lance Armstrong. McQuaid said Armstrong should travel to UCI headquarters in Switzerland to tell all about his doping history and offer to help clean up the sport.

"He should jump on his private plane, come to Switzerland and say, 'What should I do?'" McQuaid told reporters. "He still hasn't apologized to the sport of cycling. If he has information that is valuable to the sport he should come forward."

McQuaid said Armstrong should also meet with the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency and World Anti-Doping Agency to provide full details on how he cheated to win the Tour de France seven times. The American was stripped of all the titles last year after admitting to doping.

"Everyone accepts he has not come clean," Mc-

Quaid said. "He should sit down and work with us."

McQuaid and the UCI have come under fire for failing to catch Armstrong and the federation has been accused of complicity and cover-ups in his cheating. But, in a wide-ranging interview with reporters on the sideline of the SportAccord Convention, McQuaid repeatedly defended himself, the UCI and former president Hein Verbruggen.

"I do not think the UCI made mistakes," the Irish official said. "The facts show the UCI was always the most advanced federation in the fight against doping. The problem was the products that couldn't be tested for at the time. There were no tests available for the products. The UCI was not to blame."

"Ten or 15 years ago, the armory was much weaker. Today we are spending 7.5 million euros (\$9.6 million) a year on testing. We are not spending 7.5 million euros (\$9.6 million) to let cheats get away."



In this July 6, 2010 file photo, Lance Armstrong of the United States, arrives prior to the start of the third stage of the Tour de France cycling race in Wanze, Belgium.

Associated Press

McQuaid said the UCI tested Armstrong 200 times between 1999 and 2005, while USADA tested him 12 times during that period.

"All the blame has been put on the UCI," he said. "Maybe USADA and WADA

should also take some responsibility."

McQuaid said he has invited USADA chief executive Travis Tygart for talks in Switzerland. Tygart, who has been one of the UCI's harshest critics, has ac-

cepted and a date for the meeting is being arranged, McQuaid said.

The UCI head claimed he never suspected Armstrong was cheating during his dominance of the Tour de France, saying he had been inspired by the rider's comeback from cancer.

"I didn't know what he was up to. I was fooled," McQuaid said. "I believed there was no way a man so close to death would go and start putting stuff into his body that could be dangerous. ... I gave him the benefit of the doubt."

McQuaid, who has faced calls to step down in the wake of the Armstrong revelations, said he has never considered resigning.

"I firmly believe I am making a difference," he said. "I firmly believe there is a change in the peloton and the sport has changed." McQuaid, who has headed the UCI for eight years, is up for re-election for a third term in September.

"I want to eradicate doping," he said. "I want to see this through. I want to finish what I started."

Despite the continuing questions over the UCI's role and the fallout from the Armstrong case, McQuaid believes the scandal will fade away and the sport has a rosy future. □

Federer

Continued from page 17

"Definitely think the next match is going to be sort of the big test for me, to see exactly where I stand."

There wasn't much trouble for Federer in the second round Wednesday, when he beat India's Somdev Devvarman 6-2, 6-1, 6-1 in less than 1½ hours.

It really was something of a laugh, especially with Federer serving at 4-0 in the final set. He hit a first serve well out, and both players waited for the linesman to make a call — which he finally did, albeit after a long delay.

Federer and Devvarman chuckled, looked at each other, and chuckled some more.

As Federer prepared to hit his second serve, he needed to pause because he couldn't regain his composure.

Otherwise, little bothered Federer.

"You obviously know he's



Serena Williams of the U.S. returns against Caroline Garcia of France in their second round match of the French Open tennis tournament, at Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday, May 29, 2013. Williams won in two sets 6-1, 6-2.

Associated Press

capable of doing certain things, and you try and make life as tough for him as possible," Devvarman said.

"In my case today, I didn't execute. And sometimes even when I did, I feel like he came up with the better shot."

Federer accumulated a 54-12 edge in winners, in part by moving forward to the net on 30 points.

"I'm happy that I was playing offensive and aggressive tennis in the first two matches, because I had the opportunity, but I didn't back off and start to play passive tennis and wait for mistakes. So I took it to my opponent," said Federer, the 2009 French Open champion.

"But really, I think I'll only know more after the Benne-
neteau match, to be quite

honest."

Then again, Benneteau might not quite be the same guy who took the first two sets against Federer before losing in five on the grass of the All England Club nearly a year ago.

Or the one who has beaten Federer twice in six meetings, including 6-3, 7-5 in February on an indoor hard court at Rotterdam, Netherlands.

The 30th-seeded Benne-
neteau dealt with pain in his thigh Wednesday during a topsy-turvy 7-6 (9), 7-5, 5-7, 0-6, 6-4 win against Tobias Kamke of Germany. Ahead by two sets and at 5-all in the third, Benne-
neteau dropped 10 games in a row before righting himself.

Even putting that aside, Benneteau explained, "Obviously it's all pretty tricky, (playing) Federer. He breezed through the first two rounds. He plays very well. ... You know you're going to have to really ramp up a gear." □

Interleague Capsules

Lee baffles Red Sox in Phillies' 3-1 victory

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Cliff Lee allowed four hits over eight innings and Jonathan Papelbon earned his first save at Fenway Park as a Red Sox opponent on Tuesday, leading the Philadelphia Phillies to a 3-1 victory over Boston.

Michael Young and Dominican Brown homered for the Phillies, and Erik Kratz singled in the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning to snap Boston's four-game winning streak.

Lee (6-2) allowed a first-inning run and then retired 22 of the next 23 batters to win his fourth consecutive decision. He struck out eight to match his season high and walked none.

Ryan Dempster (2-6) allowed two runs on six hits and three walks, striking out four in seven innings for Boston.

Papelbon pitched a perfect ninth for his 10th save. The Red Sox closer from 2005-11 — including their 2007 World Series title — he entered to a chorus of boos and without the theme song "Shipping up to Boston" he used for much of his career here.

RAYS 7, MARLINS 6

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Desmond Jennings drove in the winning run with a two-out single in the bottom of the ninth inning, lifting the Rays to a victory over the Marlins.

The Rays came back from an early 4-0 deficit and won their third in a row. Miami lost its seventh straight game.

Kelly Johnson opened the ninth with an infield single and took second on Evan Longoria's single off Mike Dunn (1-1). With two outs, Jennings singled against Chad Qualls.

Fernando Rodney (2-2) got the win.

Jennings, Luke Scott and Yunel Escobar each had three of Tampa Bay's 16

hits.

REDS 8, INDIANS 2

CINCINNATI (AP) — Xavier Paul singled home a pair of runs in the first inning as the Reds completed a two-game home sweep of the Indians.

The intrastate rivals headed to Cleveland for two more games. The Indians lead the all-time series 42-41.

The Reds have won 14 of their past 17 games overall, leaving them with the second-best record in the majors at 33-19. They trail NL Central-leading St. Louis.

Cleveland has dropped five straight — matching its season high — and seven of eight.

Mat Latos (5-0) handled a slumping lineup, allowing one run in 6 1-3 innings. The Indians have been outscored 33-14 during their losing streak.

The Reds had 18 hits, one shy of their season high.

Paul's two-run single put the Reds ahead 3-0 in the first against Zach McAllister (4-4).

BRAVES 7, BLUE JAYS 6, 10 INNINGS

TORONTO (AP) — Brian McCann hit two home runs, including a solo shot in the 10th inning that lifted the Braves over the Blue Jays 7-6.

McCann and rookie Evan Gattis hit back-to-back homers off Ramon Ortiz in the sixth, giving the Braves a 6-5 lead. The Blue Jays tied it on J.P. Arencibia's RBI double in the seventh.

McCann connected for a leadoff drive in the 10th against Thad Weber (0-1) for his sixth home run. It was McCann's first multihomer game of the season and the ninth of his career.

Cory Gearrin (2-1) pitched one inning for the win. Craig Kimbrel celebrated his 25th birthday by finishing for his 16th save in 19 chances.

Jordan Schafer also homered for the Braves.

ROCKIES 2, ASTROS 1

HOUSTON (AP) — Michael Cuddyer had three hits, including an RBI single in the ninth inning that gave the Colorado Rockies a win over the Astros.

Troy Tulowitzki doubled off Houston closer Jose Veras (0-4) to start the ninth and advanced to third on a wild pitch. Cuddyer followed with his single, which sailed just out of reach of leaping third baseman Matt Dominguez.

Tulowitzki had an RBI single in the first. Chris Carter tied it in the fourth with an RBI grounder.

Matt Belisle (2-2) threw a perfect eighth for the win. Closer Rafael Betancourt struck out two in the ninth for his 11th save.

CARDINALS 4, ROYALS 1
KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)



Philadelphia Phillies starter Cliff Lee fires delivers a pitch against the Boston Red Sox during the first inning of an interleague baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday, May 28, 2013.

Associated Press

— Carlos Beltran hit a two-run homer against his former team and rookie Tyler Lyons made another dazzling start as the Cardinals beat Kansas City for the Royals' 10th consecutive

home defeat.

The only two hits that Lyons (2-0) allowed over seven innings were to Billy Butler — a two-out RBI double in the first inning and a bloop single in the seventh. □

Rogers cheered in away debut as openly gay player

CARY, North Carolina (AP) —

Robbie Rogers, the first openly gay man playing in a U.S. professional league, was cheered in his first away game with Major League Soccer side the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Rogers entered as a substitute in the 62nd minute of Los Angeles' 2-0 loss to the Carolina Railhawks on Wednesday in the third round of the U.S. Open Cup.

He received polite applause from the Railhawks' record crowd of 8,121, with some shouting cheers of encouragement.

Rogers made his MLS debut three nights earlier at Los Angeles. This was his first game away from Southern California since he joined the Galaxy over the weekend.

The first true MLS away game for Rogers is Sunday at New England. □



In this Nov. 14, 2009 file photo, Robbie Rogers, of the United States, eyes the ball during a friendly soccer match against Slovakia in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Associated Press

Pacers get even with Miami after 99-92 victory

MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Roy Hibbert had 23 points and 12 rebounds as the Indiana Pacers charged back late to beat the Miami Heat 99-92 on Tuesday and level the Eastern Conference finals at 2-2.

LeBron James led the Heat with 24 points before fouling out with 56 seconds to go. Mario Chalmers had 20 points on a night the defending NBA champs failed to take command of the series.

The Heat will host Game 5 on Thursday.

"We're not going anywhere. We're going back down to Miami to go out there and fight again," Hibbert said.

Lance Stephenson added 20 points for the Pacers, who started fast and spent the rest of the night trying to fend off Miami's continual comebacks.

But with Indiana leading 81-72 early in the fourth, Miami answered with a 14-2 run that gave the Heat an 86-83 lead.

Indiana leveled the score



Indiana Pacers' Roy Hibbert, right, is defended by Miami Heat's Chris Bosh during the first half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals, Tuesday, May 28, 2013, in Indianapolis. Associated Press

with Paul George's three-point play and erased the Miami lead by closing the game on a 16-6 run.

Indiana was desperate — and it showed.

Bodies crashed to the ground all night. An angry George uncharacteristically smacked the floor after being called for a foul in the third quarter, leading to a technical foul on

coach Frank Vogel. And the defense did a far better job against James and his high-scoring teammates. James finished 8 of 18 from the field.

But the Pacers did not get rattled.

Instead, they answered every challenge Miami posed as they had in the first two games of this series.

When Miami used a 9-0

run to take a 60-54 lead early in the third quarter, Indiana answered immediately with a 10-0 run to regain the lead. When James committed an offensive foul with 2 seconds left in the third quarter, his first turnover since the end of Game 2, the Pacers got a buzzer-beating 3-pointer from Stephenson to make it 77-70.

Even as the Heat rallied in the fourth, charging back from an 81-72 deficit to take an 86-83 lead, the Pacers answered. George tied the score on a three-point play on which James committed his fourth foul.

Ray Allen broke the deadlock with a 3 from the left wing, but after corraling rebound after rebound, Indiana went on a 7-0 run to retake the lead and Miami never tied it again.

This was not the same Miami team that dominated Indiana in Game 3. Nor was it the same Pacers defense that got overrun by James and his teammates two nights earlier.

Miami struggled to score early, Dwyane Wade was limping noticeably in the first half and forward Chris Bosh hurt his right knee in the first half and his right ankle in the second. The Big Three combined to go just 14 of 39 from the field. Indiana, meanwhile, reverted to its more traditional style. The Pacers had a 49-30 rebounding advantage and outscored Miami in the paint 50-32. □

Love joins Haas as Presidents Cup aides to Couples

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Davis Love III has been added as an assistant to U.S. Presidents Cup captain Fred Couples for the team competition at Muirfield Village Golf Club in October.

The announcement was made on Wednesday on the eve of the Memorial Tournament, also at Muirfield Village, where Love and Couples are playing this week.

Jay Haas is also assisting Couples with the American team.

Love holds a 16-5-8 record in Presidents Cup play, including a 5-1-2 mark when teamed with Couples.

The Presidents Cup will be played from Oct. 3-6.

The International team is led by Nick Price, with assistants Shigeki Maruyama, Mark McNulty and Tony Johnstone. □



USA's captain Davis Love III talks to Fred Couples during the Ryder Cup PGA golf tournament Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012, at the Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill.

Associated Press

Kings advance, edging Sharks 2-1 in Game 7

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Justin Williams scored two goals in the second period to lead the Los Angeles Kings into the Western Conference finals with a 2-1 victory over the San Jose Sharks in Game 7 on Tuesday. Jonathan Quick made 25 saves as the defending Stanley Cup champions finished off this agonizingly even series with their 14th consecutive home victory over the past two months, including seven straight in the postseason. The home team won all seven games in this thrilling all-California series, and the fifth-seeded Kings barely rode their home-ice advantage to victory in their first potential elimination game in the last two years. Antti Niemi stopped 16 shots, and Dan Boyle scored early in the third period for the Sharks, who fell just short of their third trip to the conference finals in four years.

The Kings will face Chicago or Detroit when they attempt to reach the Stanley Cup finals for the third time. The Blackhawks host the Red Wings in Game 7 on Wednesday. Los Angeles has won eight straight home playoff games dating to last season's Stanley Cup clincher, but this one might have been the toughest. San Jose pressed the action throughout the third period after Williams' back-to-back goals put the Sharks in a mid-game hole, but Quick and the Kings' defense hung on for a win in Los Angeles' first Game 7 at home since 1989. Williams scored on a power-play tap-in and a one-timer 2:57 apart early in the second, putting the Kings on top to stay. The veteran wing had an eight-game, goal-scoring drought, but the two-time Stanley Cup winner has a knack for Game 7 heroics, scoring nine points in his four career appearances in the deci-

sive game. Quick and Los Angeles' defense barely held off the Sharks in a frantic third period. Quick showed off his Conn Smythe Trophy form yet again, finishing the seven-game series by allowing just 10 goals. This series was even from the start, with neither team able to take more than momentary control. The clubs were similarly equal in the regular season, when the Kings' 3-2 home victory over San Jose in the finale pushed fifth-seeded Los Angeles ahead of the Sharks. That eventually led to the Kings starting a playoff series at home for the first time since 1992. Los Angeles opened with two home victories, stealing Game 2 with a pair of power-play goals in the final minutes for the only major comeback of the series. The Sharks responded with two solid 2-1 victories at home, keeping the Kings' offense punchless away from Staples Center. □



Los Angeles Kings goalie Jonathan Quick makes a save against the San Jose Sharks during the third period in Game 7 of the Western Conference semifinals in the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs, Tuesday, May 28, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Rangers fire coach John Tortorella



In this April 5, 2013 file photo, New York Rangers head coach John Tortorella stands behind his bench during an NHL hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

IRA PODELL
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Rangers have fired coach John Tortorella, four days after New York was eliminated from the Stanley Cup playoffs. Tortorella was unexpectedly dismissed Wednesday with one-year left on his contract. He led the Rangers to the Eastern Conference finals last year and into the second round this year before New York was eliminated in five games by the Boston Bruins. The combative coach, who was hired to replace Tom Renney in February 2009, achieved some success with the Rangers but couldn't match the Stanley Cup title he earned in 2004 with the Tampa Bay Lightning. Last season, Tortorella led the Rangers to 51 wins — the second-most in franchise history — and 109 points before they were beaten by New Jersey in the conference finals. □

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MON - THURS 5:00 | 7:20 | 9:40
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FRI 5:20 | 8:10 | 11:20
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SUN & HOL 2:30 | 5:20 | 8:10

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FRI 4:00 | 6:25 | 9:10
SAT 3:30 | 6:25 | 9:10
SUN & HOL 3:30 | 6:25 | 9:10

Study: longer quarantine may be necessary to stop MERS

MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — A detailed look at two cases of a deadly new respiratory virus called MERS suggests people who have the disease should be isolated for at least 12 days to avoid spreading it, doctors reported Wednesday.

The new germ, a respiratory infection, was first seen in the Middle East and so far has sickened more than 40 people worldwide, killing about half of them.

In the report published online in the journal *Lancet*, French scientists said the first patient visited Dubai. He is thought to have caught MERS there before passing it onto the second patient, who had no travel history and with whom he shared a room for three days.

Health officials have previously noted MERS can be spread among people if they are in close contact and clusters of the illness have been spotted in countries including Britain, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia. Experts aren't sure how humans are catching the virus but think it may originate in animals like bats or camels. In a speech on Monday in Geneva, the World Health Organization's Director-General, Dr. Margaret Chan, said her greatest health concern is MERS. She called the ongoing outbreaks "alarm bells" and said the virus "is a threat to the entire world."

French doctors estimated the disease's incubation period to be from 9 to 12 days for the second case, longer than the 7 to 10 days previously reported by others. They said longer quarantines might be necessary to stop the virus' spread and noted people with underlying medical conditions could be at higher risk.

The scientists wrote that if the virus evolves further, it could become more dangerous.

With further mutations, they said MERS "might become increasingly transmissible" and must be continuously assessed. □

Personal Health: Battling the tribulations of cancer together

JANE E. BRODY
© 2013 New York Times

Three days after her double mastectomy for recurrent breast cancer, Elissa Bantug, then 25, needed to feel whole again. But when she expressed a desire for intimacy, her fiancé (now her husband) walked away, leaving her feeling hurt and angry and worried about their future together. Weeks later she learned that his rejection was based not on any lost love or attraction, but on the fear that he might hurt her physically.

"I was just guessing," Bantug said in an interview. "It would have been really helpful to hear his thoughts, fears and concerns."

But she admits she did no better at expressing her own. All through the post-operative ordeal and chemotherapy, she said, "I did a bad job of communicating my needs. I would tell him I'm fine when I really felt awful, and then I would resent the fact that he didn't take care of me."

"It was really hard, but we got through it because we love each other," she said.

"He finally told me: 'I want you alive. I don't care what your breasts look like.'"

Recognizing the importance of honesty and communication when cancer strikes, Bantug, now 31, went on to run a cancer survivors' clinic at the Johns Hopkins Breast Center, helping other couples through the cancer experience. She spoke frankly of her own ordeal with Dan Shapiro, a professor of psychology at Penn State University.

Shapiro is the author of a new book, "And in Health: A Guide for Couples Facing Cancer Together." His advice can help prevent the diagnosis from damaging one's most important relationship.

Few know the challenges better. Both Shapiro and his wife, Terry, have survived serious bouts of cancer. Cancer, he wrote, "is like a tremor that rattles our walls and finds the fault lines that already existed. If we're

not careful, it reaches into our relationships and drags out these subtle differences and magnifies them." Shapiro met his wife in his 20s while undergoing a bone-marrow transplant for Hodgkin lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph system. After they married, his cancer recurred, and he needed a second bone marrow transplant, which saved his life.

By means of stored sperm, the couple had two daughters. Then cancer struck again. Shapiro admits that when his wife was found to have breast cancer, he became "non-



Honesty, communication and affection are crucial for couples facing the struggles of cancer.

(Vivienne Flesher/The New York Times)

functional, terrified that she might die and fearing I'd have to raise the two girls by myself." But instead of telling his wife, "I love you a lot - it's hard to watch this," he tried to protect her from his fears.

He has since learned that withholding his feelings was a big mistake.

"By not being honest with each other," he told me, "you can create a wedge in the relationship at a time when you both need understanding and support." Shapiro wrote that cancer can cause people to lose their bearings and to push away those they love and most need to help them through the challenges of treatment.

The lessons derived from his own experience and those of 40 other "cancer couples" are elaborated in his book, a kind of Cancer 101 for couples. Among them:

TEAMWORK IS ESSENTIAL

Even without the chal-

lenge of a potentially fatal diagnosis like cancer, people often have difficulty remembering everything doctors tell them and correctly interpreting the information. When couples see doctors as a team, with one assigned to take notes and both able to ask questions, misunderstandings about diagnoses and treatment options are less likely.

If doctors fail to adequately address the patient's concerns, the couple should decide which partner will speak up. And when both members of a couple are educated about side ef-

fects, they are less likely to panic when a symptom develops.

TALK AND TOUCH

Whenever and however you can, express and show your love and concern in words, actions and touch. When faced with cancer, Shapiro's wife needed him to say, repeatedly, that he loved her.

"And she wanted me to take the trash down to the street on time without being reminded," he added. Love and support can also be communicated through touch.

"A soft nonsexual touch on the arm or shoulder can be a soothing balm when we feel vulnerable," Shapiro wrote.

ALLOW FOR MISTAKES

Couples must rely more than ever on patience and tolerance.

"Cancer requires a whole new set of skills at a time when most of us are de-

pleted, distracted and scared," he wrote.

Each person should go easy on the partner when "rookie mistakes" occur, like forgetting appointments, losing things or locking the keys in the car.

When people are anxious, they may blame each other for their ill feelings. The psychologist warns against acting on "negative feelings" that inevitably arise, for example, when couples are waiting for the results of treatment. Rather than take out their anxiety on spouses, themselves or anyone else, he suggests, "Do exercise, go for walks, see a movie, talk to friends and distract yourself."

NOBODY CAN READ MINDS

Like Bantug, patients often expect their partners to know how they are feeling and what they may want, then resent it when unexpressed needs are not met. A patient's ability and energy to perform tasks may change from one day to the next. Patients may feel unsupported if their partners expect them to function normally when they feel awful, or they may resent having jobs taken from them when they feel well. It's better to ask than to assume. Both should "talk about what needs to be done today and who's going to do it," Shapiro advised. He encourages spouses to repeatedly check in with each other about various tasks.

PREPARE FOR THE UNKNOWN

When Penny Carruth's husband's body "shut down" while he was being treated for lymphoma, she didn't know if he would want to be artificially ventilated.

"It seemed like torture - he moaned, groaned and tried to pull off the mask. His hands had to be tied down," she told me.

In Shapiro's book, she urges couples to have a conversation about end-of-life care, making clear their wishes in case a spouse later faces decisions about life support. □

Americans talk, surf more than Europeans on cells



In this March 2, 2010 file photo, an unidentified man talks on his cell phone in Augusta, Maine.

Associated Press

PETER SVENSSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans pay more for their cell service than Europeans, but they're getting a lot more use out of their phones, a global wireless trade group said Wednesday.

The GSM Association urged European regulators to take cues from the U.S. It pointed out that U.S. consumers talk five times as much as Europeans on their cellphones and use twice as much data. AT&T and Verizon Wireless also have the lead in introducing the latest network technology, which means average data downloads are 75 percent faster in the U.S., the group found.

Europe led the world in wireless technology a decade ago, pioneering the shift from analog phone networks to digital ones. But the continent has lagged behind as cellphones have become data devices, the GSMA said.

The trade group said European carriers are lagging

because they're smaller, meaning they can't capture savings from efficiency the way U.S. carriers can. It's urging regulators to make it easier to build cross-border businesses. In the U.S., the allocation of space on the airwaves is controlled by the federal government, but each of the 27 EU countries controls its own radio spectrum, making it difficult to coordinate the use of radio frequencies across borders. The four largest U.S. wireless carriers — Verizon, AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile USA — are each larger than the largest European carrier. Americans paid an average of \$69 per month last year for cellphone service, compared with \$38 in the European Union, the study found. For their monthly fees, Americans got 901 minutes of calls and 480 megabytes of data traffic, compared with Europeans' 170 minutes of calls and 273 megabytes of data.

The continents are diverging further, the study found.



Although increased use of data-intensive devices such as tablets is encouraging Americans to pay

more and consume more, Europeans are scrimping, cutting their monthly rates. The higher monthly fees in

the U.S. encourage investment in networks, pushing data speeds higher, the study found. □

Stocks fall; Dow average pulls back from record

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street's recent passion for high-dividend stocks is fading.

The stock market closed lower Wednesday, led by the same industry groups that had the biggest gains early in the year: rich dividend payers like power utilities and makers of consumer staples.

Rising bond yields have been an important factor behind that shift.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note is near the highest it's been in 13 months following a sharp increase on Tuesday. That's giving investors who want steady income an alternative to dividend-rich stocks like power utilities, consumer staples makers and phone companies. Investors piled into those stocks at the beginning of the year, when bond yields were close to historic lows. More broadly, after this year's powerful bull run — the Dow Jones industrial average is up 16.8 percent, the Standard & Poor's 500

index 15.6 percent — investors may be running out of reasons to keep plowing money into the stock market. "There's a vacuum of catalysts to continue to push (stocks) higher," said Sam Stovall, chief U.S. equity strategist for S&P Capital IQ. Now, Stovall said, investors are wondering: " 'Well, should I take some profits and sit on the sidelines and then get back in?' "

Stovall noted that S&P 500 has had a temporary pull-back of at least 5 percent every year since the end of the World War II. That hasn't happened yet in 2013.

The Dow closed down 106.59 points at 15,302.80, a loss of 0.7 percent. That decline matched its advance the day before, when it closed at a record high, the ninth time it has done so this month. The Dow was down as much as 179 points in late morning trading, then rose moderately in the afternoon.

The S&P 500 index was down 11.70 points to 1,648.36, also 0.7 percent. The Nasdaq composite lost 21.37 points to 3,467.52, or

0.6 percent.

The S&P 500 is headed for a seventh consecutive month of increases, the longest winning streak since 2009. The Dow is on

reported Tuesday in home prices and consumer confidence. Hiring has also been picking up and first-quarter corporate profits hit a record high. Investors

stock prices has been encouraged by the Fed. The central bank has been buying \$85 billion of bonds each month in an effort to keep interest rates low and encourage borrowing, lending and investing. With rates low, investors have sought stocks as an alternative to bonds.

Minutes of a Fed meeting released last Wednesday brought news that some policymakers favored scaling back the bond purchases as early as next month, providing the economy picks up. That pushed stock markets to a decline last week, the first weekly drop in five. Those concerns have also led traders to sell bonds, pushing long-term interest rates higher.

"At some point, interest rates will go up and that's obviously having some impact on stocks," said Erik Davidson, deputy chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank. "And you're seeing it in the sectors that you would expect. The hardest sectors hit recently have been ... the more dividend-driven stock sectors."

Real estate investment trusts, or REITs, another investment favored by investors seeking income, have also been hit as Treasury yields climb. Vanguard's exchange-traded REIT fund has fallen for five straight days, cutting its gains this year to 10.9 percent from 19.7 percent.

Nine of 10 industries in the S&P 500 fell, led by declines of 1.9 percent for consumer staples and 1.5 percent for utilities. In the first three months of the year they were among the biggest winners.

Despite the decline in stocks, it seems too early to call an end to the rally. On several trading days this year, stocks have had sharp sell-offs, only to rise again as investors take advantage of the dip in prices to get into the market.

The Dow fell 1.8 percent April 15 on concerns that a slowdown in China would trip up global economic growth. □



Specialist Donald Civitanova checks his screens as he on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, May 29, 2013. The stock market fell Wednesday, giving back much of its gain from the day before, as traders cut their holdings of high-dividend stocks that were investor favorites at the beginning of the year.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

track to end higher for a sixth straight month.

Investors have been encouraged by positive signs on the economy recently, including sharp increases

worry, however, that the Federal Reserve will start to ease back on its stimulus program as the economy improves.

The powerful run-up in

In Q1:

US banks report record earnings of \$40.3B

MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. banks earned more from January through March than during any quarter on record, buoyed by greater income from fees and fewer losses from bad loans.

The banking industry earned \$40.3 billion in the first quarter, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said Wednesday. That's the highest ever for a single quarter and up 15.8 percent from the first quarter of 2012, when the industry's profits were \$34.8 billion.

Record profits show banks have come a long way from the 2008 financial crisis. But the report offered a reminder that the industry is still struggling to help the broader economy recover from the Great Recession. Only about half of U.S.



In the photo, a JPMorgan Chase & Co building in New York. The FDIC issued the U.S. banking industry's financial results for the January-March quarter, on Wednesday, May 29, 2013.

(Handout Photo)

banks reported improved earnings from a year earlier, the lowest proportion since 2009. That shows the industry's growth is being driven by a narrower

group of the nation's largest banks. Those banks include Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Wells Fargo & Co. Most

of them have recovered with help from federal bailout money and record-low borrowing rates. Bank lending declined from the October-December quarter, although that followed several quarters of increases. And bank profits from interest charged fell 2.2 percent to \$104 billion. The industry's average interest income as a percentage of total loans on its books fell from 3.35 percent to 3.27 percent. That's the lowest portion of total loans in nearly seven years. That has forced banks to see more revenue from fees, despite complaints from customers and consumer advocates.

FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg said the banking industry "is in much stronger shape today than it was three years ago." □

China's Shuanghui in \$4.7B deal for Smithfield Foods

M. FELBERBAUM

AP Business Writer

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)

— Shuanghui International Holdings Ltd. has agreed to buy Smithfield Foods Inc. for approximately \$4.72 billion, the largest acquisition of a U.S. company by a Chinese company.

Hong Kong-based Shuanghui owns a variety of global businesses that include food, logistics and flavoring products and is the majority shareholder in China's largest meat processing enterprise. Smithfield, the world's biggest pork producer, owns brands such as Armour, Farmland and its namesake.

Shareholders of Smithfield will receive \$34 per share under terms of the deal announced Wednesday — a 31 percent premium to the Smithfield, Virginia, company's closing stock price of \$25.97 on Tuesday.

Both companies' boards have unanimously approved the transaction, which still needs approval from Smithfield's sharehold-

ers. The transaction may also be subject to review by the U.S.'s Committee on Foreign Investment, which evaluates the potential national security effects of transactions. The process typically includes a 30-day initial review, followed by

low but has risen sharply in recent years. China has accused the U.S. of discriminating against its companies, although analysts say American firms face bigger obstructions investing in China.

The companies put the

Set. Smithfield's stock will no longer be publicly traded once the deal closes. Its shares surged \$6.50, or 25 percent, to \$32.47 in midday trading Wednesday.

Shuanghui has 13 facilities that produce more than 2.7 million tons of meat per year. Under the agreement, there will be no closures at Smithfield's facilities and locations, including its Smithfield, Virginia, headquarters in the historic southeastern Virginia town of about 8,100 where it was founded in 1936, the companies said.

Smithfield's existing management team will remain in place and Shuanghui also will honor the collective bargaining agreements with Smithfield workers. The company has about 46,000 employees.

"This transaction preserves the same old Smithfield, only with more opportunities and new markets and new frontiers," Smithfield CEO Larry Pope said in a conference call. □



A Smithfield ham on sale at a grocery store in Richardson, Texas. Chinese meat processor Shuanghui International Holdings Ltd. agreed Wednesday, May 29, 2013, to buy Smithfield Foods Inc. for approximately \$4.72 billion in a deal that will take the world's biggest pork producer private.

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

a 45-day investigation before making a recommendation to the president.

Chinese investment in the U.S. is still comparatively

deal's total value at about \$7.1 billion, including debt. Smithfield Foods has about 138.8 million outstanding shares, according to Fact-

Nasdaq paying \$10M to settle Facebook disruption

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— Nasdaq has agreed to pay a \$10 million penalty to settle federal civil charges after regulators said its systems and decisions disrupted Facebook's public stock offering last year.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said Wednesday that the penalty is the largest ever imposed against an exchange. Nasdaq also has had to pay \$62 million in reimbursements to investment firms that lost money because of the problems. Facebook launched its initial public offering on May 18, 2012 amid great fanfare. But computer glitches at Nasdaq delayed the start of trading and threw the launch into chaos. The technical problems kept many investors from buying shares that morning, selling them later in the day or even knowing whether their orders went through. Some said they were left

holding shares they didn't want. The SEC says a design flaw in Nasdaq's systems was to blame and Nasdaq officials then made a series of "ill-fated decisions."

Nasdaq neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing. Robert Greifeld, the CEO of the exchange's parent Nasdaq OMX Group Inc., called the settlement an "important step forward."

In a letter to customers made public Wednesday, Greifeld said Nasdaq has carefully reviewed the Facebook disruption over the past year and put new technical safeguards in place. The exchange has taken steps such as creating new executive positions within its technology division, and setting up teams to monitor and test trading

systems, Greifeld said.

In addition to its namesake stock exchange, Nasdaq OMX also operates other exchanges and clearinghouses in the U.S. and abroad.

The Facebook IPO was widely anticipated and one of the largest in history. The social network was valued at more than \$100 billion when it went public for \$38 a share.

Nasdaq violated market rules by being poorly prepared for the launch, the SEC said. Exchanges have an obligation to ensure that their systems and contingency plans are strong enough to manage an IPO without disrupting the market.

The SEC said Nasdaq officials believed they had fixed the design flaw by removing a few lines of computer code and opted not to delay the start of trading in Facebook. But they failed to understand the root cause of the problem, the SEC said. □



Nasdaq has agreed to pay a \$10 million penalty to settle federal civil charges after regulators said its systems and decisions disrupted Facebook's public stock offering last year.

(Handout Photo)

Oil falls to near \$93 on fear of Fed pullback

The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil fell near \$93 a barrel Wednesday on concerns that the Federal Reserve may ease up on its stimulus measures and that the stock market rally is cooling.

By afternoon in New York, benchmark oil for July delivery was down \$1.69 to \$93.31 a barrel. It fell as low as \$93.10.

Improvement in the U.S. economy, particularly the housing sector, has set off speculation that the Fed will pull back on stimulus measures.

The Fed has been buying \$85 billion of bonds each month in an effort to keep interest rates low and encourage borrowing, lending and investing.

That environment has helped make oil a more attractive investment than low-yielding options such as bonds.

Oil has also ridden the coattails of the record-setting U.S. stock market. On Wednesday, analysts questioned if investors might be anticipating a pullback in stocks, as the Standard & Poor's 500 index and the Dow Jones industrial average gave back the gains they recorded Tuesday.

Also overhanging the oil market is the reality of supply and demand. Supplies are ample while demand is modest, keeping energy prices in check, traders said.

"We all know that the US supply is near record highs and demand is playing catch up as slow as the economy is recovering," said Carl Larry of Oil Outlooks and Opinions. "So now we're stuck with moderate demand, consistent and steady supply and no real worry about where the next barrel of oil is coming from."

The latest information about U.S. stockpiles of crude and refined products is on the horizon. □

Mutts



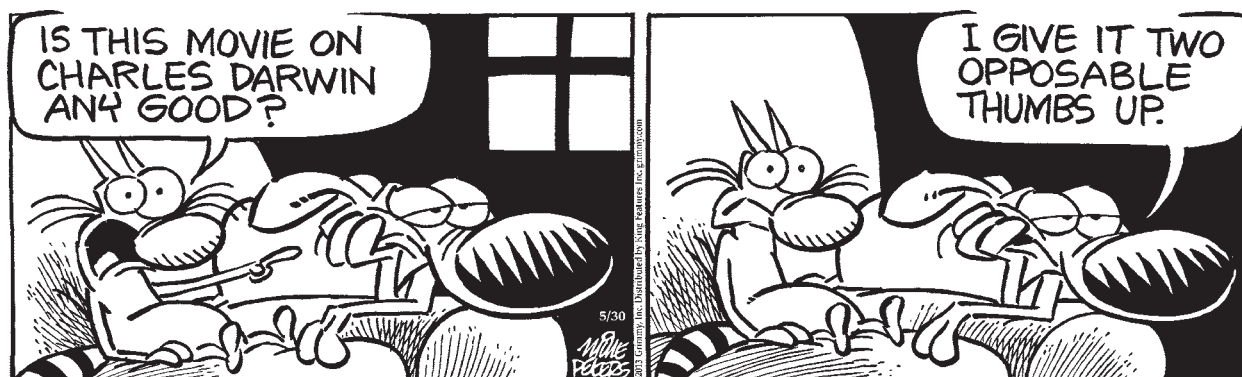
6 Chix



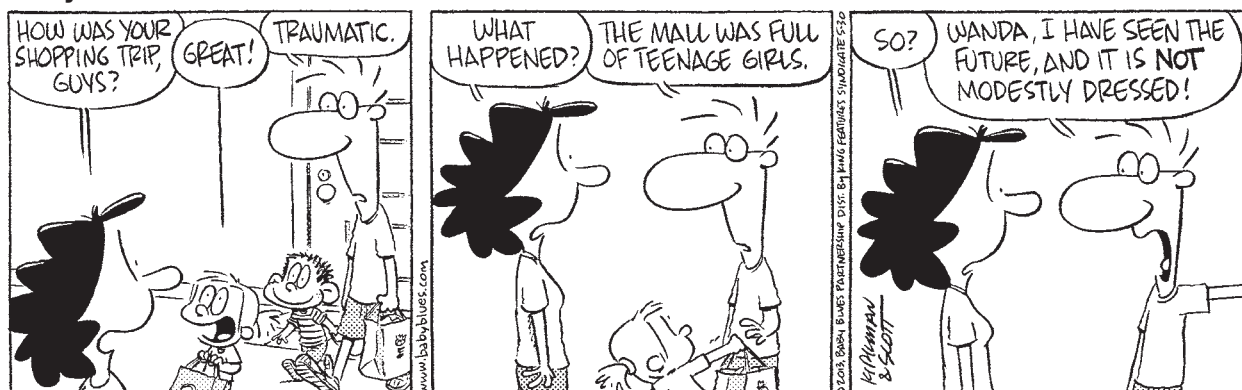
Blondie



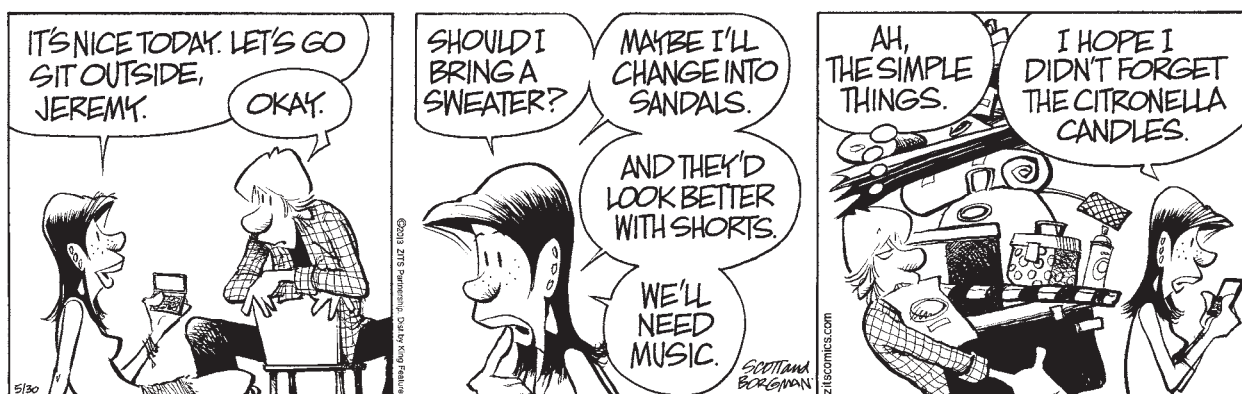
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

					6		9	
		3			8			5
	7			3	4			
						4	5	6
		2				7		
5	4	8						
			7	8			1	
1			3			9		
	3		5					

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	5	9	6	3	7	2	1	4
6	7	2	8	1	4	5	3	9
3	4	1	2	9	5	6	8	7
5	2	3	4	7	1	9	6	8
9	8	6	5	2	3	7	4	1
7	1	4	9	6	8	3	5	2
2	3	8	1	5	9	4	7	6
1	6	5	7	4	2	8	9	3
4	9	7	3	8	6	1	2	5

ACROSS

- 1 Grocery sacks
- 5 Unlocks
- 10 Finds a total
- 14 Toe the line
- 15 Baby's tummy ailment
- 16 Authentic
- 17 Charitable gift
- 18 Punctuation mark
- 19 Bundle of hay
- 20 Calm; tranquil
- 22 Intertwined
- 24 Blunder
- 25 On the ball
- 26 Car rental company
- 29 Afternoon hour
- 30 ___ with; handles
- 34 Complain
- 35 Singing pair
- 36 Entrance; door
- 37 Fall month; abbr.
- 38 One who can't keep a secret
- 40 Wide silk sash
- 41 "Beaver State"
- 43 Sty resident
- 44 Escaped
- 45 ___ firma; land
- 46 Spider's project
- 47 ___ of the ball; pretty woman
- 48 Boxer ___ De La Hoya
- 50 Tiny vegetable
- 51 Farm machine
- 54 Move to another locale
- 58 Roll call response
- 59 German sub
- 61 Leaping insect
- 62 Drug addict
- 63 Come into conflict
- 64 University of Utah athletes
- 65 Remain
- 66 Big and bulky
- 67 Bewildered

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21			22			23				
			24				25							
26	27	28				29				30	31	32	33	
34					35				36					
37				38				39				40		
41			42				43				44			
45						46				47				
			48		49				50					
51	52	53					54				55	56	57	
58					59		60				61			
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/30/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	E	E	P	C	A	R	O	L	S	A	M	S
M	A	L	E	A	D	O	B	E	A	V	O	W
U	S	E	R	N	A	T	I	O	N	W	I	D
G	Y	M	P	O	P	E	A	I	D	E	D	
	E	R	U	P	T		C	N	N			
W	I	N	E	R	Y		L	I	N	G	E	R
A	L	T	A	R		P	I	E	T	Y	S	A
S	I	A	M		D	O	T	T	Y	S	T	I
P	A	R		M	I	L	E	S		S	H	I
	D	Y	N	A	M	O		C	L	U	M	S
		I	K	E		T	H	E	T	A		
B	R	A	C	E		F	R	E	D		T	I
L	A	C	E	R	A	T	I	O	N		F	I
A	G	E	S		R	O	G	U	E		R	O
B	E	S	T		T	E	S	T	Y		O	N

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5/30/13

DOWN

- 1 Wild hog
- 2 Up to the task

- 3 Topaz & ruby
- 4 Circulatory and respiratory
- 5 Happen
- 6 Swimming spot
- 7 Lawn tree
- 8 Spry; agile
- 9 Frighten
- 10 Dispute settler
- 11 Deceased
- 12 Valley
- 13 Downhill glider
- 21 To and ___
- 23 Passion
- 25 "One good turn deserves ___"
- 26 Under way
- 27 Ill-gotten gain
- 28 Fall flower
- 29 ___ to lunch; scatterbrained
- 31 Ring-shaped island
- 32 Price tag
- 33 Go down smoothly
- 35 VP ___ Quayle
- 36 Cribbage piece
- 38 Browned bread

- 51 Therefore
- 52 Take a break
- 53 Length times width
- 54 Ship's pole
- 55 Singing voice
- 56 Pegs for Tiger
- 57 Vane direction
- 60 Clumsy fellow

Obama's travels under scrutiny in belt tightening era

MICHAEL D. SHEAR
PETER BAKER

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CHICAGO - Perhaps it is nothing more than an accident of timing that as federal workers brace for a summer filled with unpaid furlough days, their leaders are traveling the nation and globe on trips that exclude luxury. On Wednesday, President

growing political costs to presidential travel. Every move a president makes costs money, and in an era when money is in short supply, that means heightened scrutiny. Vacations are especially touchy. "The president is asking the people to sacrifice but never himself," Rep. Chris Stewart, R-Utah, said when he introduced a resolu-

asked generally about Obama's travels in a rare interview on "Fox News Sunday" this week. "He's on the road too much," Dole said. Almost by definition, Obama lives a life foreign to most Americans, with the big white house and the ushers and chefs and the airplane fueled and ready to go. When he

the Office of Management and Budget - as employees were ordered to take the first of several unpaid days off. Many workers are canceling summer vacations of their own. Across the government, cutbacks are everywhere. The Blue Angels did not fly at the U.S. Naval Academy commencement, Head Start programs are turning away children and there are no summer jobs for college students to cut the grass at Antietam. In a nod to the pain that federal employees are feeling, Obama announced in April that he would cut his salary by \$20,000. □



President Barack Obama waves while boarding Marine One after arriving at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Wednesday, May 29, 2013.

(AP Photo/Paul Beaty)

Barack Obama left the White House for two Chicago fundraisers in the hope of helping Democrats retake the House in next year's elections. The cost of flying aboard Air Force One to his hometown: \$180,000 per hour. The same day the first lady, Michelle Obama, traveled to Massachusetts to lunch with rich donors who had paid up to \$37,600 per ticket at the Taj Boston Hotel. The meal included roasted Chilean sea bass with a fricassee of asparagus. Meanwhile, Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, were in Rio de Janeiro, part of a six-day swing through Latin America to discuss trade and investment, including a stop in Trinidad and Tobago. For a leader presiding over automatic budget cuts and a slow-moving economic recovery, there are

tion earlier this year asking Obama to forgo vacations to pay for resuming White House tours cut because of the automatic budget cuts, known as the sequester. "We don't have a problem with him taking vacations, but it seems petty to close the White House to tours when forgoing one or two out-of-town vacations would easily pay for the cost of keeping it open." Bob Dole, the former Republican senator from Kansas, was more blunt when

wants a weekend away, he can fly to Florida to golf with Tiger Woods. When his daughters take spring break, they head to Aspen to ski. He winters in Hawaii and summers in Martha's Vineyard. But this summer's trips come as federal employees are tightening their belts. On Friday, four federal agencies closed down - the Environmental Protection Agency, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and

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Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 / 586-6976

Women in Difficulties

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U.S. vs. European hurricane model: Which is better?

TAMARA LUSH

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida

(AP) — When forecasters from the National Weather Service track a hurricane, they use models from several different supercomputers located around the world to create their predictions.

Some of those models are more accurate than others. During Hurricane Sandy last October, for instance, the model from the European Center for Medium-range Weather Forecasting in the United Kingdom predicted eight days before landfall that the large storm would hit the East Coast, while the American supercomputer model showed Sandy drifting out to sea.

The American model eventually predicted Sandy's landfall four days before the storm hit — plenty of time for preparation — but revealed a potential weakness in the American computer compared to the European system. It left some meteorologists fuming.

"Let me be blunt: the state of operational U.S. numerical weather prediction is an embarrassment to the nation and it does not have to be this way," wrote Cliff Maas, a professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington on his weather blog.

Meteorologists agree that the two American supercomputers that provide storm models are underpowered — which is why the National Weather Service plans on upgrading those computers in the next two years. The two main forecasting computers — one in Orlando, Florida and the other in Virginia



In this May 7, 2012 photo, National Hurricane Center Director Rick Knabb talks in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., about the lessons learned from the Superstorm Sandy storm surge and expectations for the Atlantic storm season that begins June 1.

— will receive \$25 million in upgrades as part of the Hurricane Sandy supplemental bill that was recently approved by Congress. "This will improve weather forecasting across the board," said Christopher Vaccaro, a spokesman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Certainly one area of concern that has received some attention were these larger high-impact extreme weather events. The European model is able to pick up on those storms earlier than our model." Jeff Masters, meteorology director at the online forecasting service Weather Underground, said that

other than Hurricane Sandy, the American model outperformed the European model during the 2012 hurricane season — but if you look at a three-year period, the European model still comes out on top. "If the U.S. did invest more money and people into making the model better, then the forecast would be better," Masters said. "The money we spend on weather forecasts and improving them pays for itself." Still, with hurricane season starting Saturday, forecasters say the average person living in a coastal area shouldn't worry about the capability gap between the computers.

"I really could care less which is the better model because we have access to them both," said James Franklin, branch chief of the hurricane specialist unit. "It's immaterial to us." And forecasters say that hurricane modeling and forecasting has become more accurate overall in the last 10 years. Forecasters at the National

Associated Press

Hurricane Center in Miami use both American and European models — and other models — then average them together for a storm's projected path. The computers take data from weather satellites, observations and weather balloons, then plug the data into complex algorithms. The fact that the American supercomputer is lacking in processing power does need to be addressed. In the long run, improving its computing power will increase the overall quality of data for scientists drawing from multiple sources. Experts also say the quality of a nation's computer capability is emblematic of its underlying commitment to research, science and innovation.

"If you just bought a bigger computer, it will help but it will not solve the problem. There are many other aspects that need to be addressed," said Richard Rood, a professor at the University of Michigan's department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Science.

Rood said that the meteorologists who run the European computer have invested time, effort and money into developing algorithms.

Another issue, he said, is the long-term maintenance of the satellites run by NASA and NOAA.

"If they fail to continue to deliver the observations, then our forecast is going to be less good," he said. "We all use the same set of raw data. For the most part, we all start from the same observations. If there is a threat to safety and property and people, it is far more related to the state of the observing system than it is to any deficiencies or any gap we might have with the Europeans on the predictive model."

There are other reasons why the European model has outperformed the American model, many of them having to do with the structure of the two agencies that run each computer, according to NOAA:

—The European model focuses on medium-range weather prediction, while the American model does a lot more — it looks at short-, medium- and long-range global weather, along with atmospheric, ocean, coastal, hurricane and space weather.

—The European center has one budget that focuses only on research and development relating to medium-range weather, while NOAA has a fragmented budget and multiple research and development projects "loosely" managed under multiple organizations.

—The European center doesn't build observational systems while NOAA does.

"There's some differences in the basic goals and purposes of these different centers," said Chris Davis, a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. "That often has to be kept in mind when trying to understand differences in the performance models used." □

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This Sept. 20, 2009 file photo shows host Neil Patrick Harris during the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles. Harris will host the Emmys again. CBS will air the Emmycast live from Los Angeles on Sept. 22.

Associated Press

Neil Patrick Harris returning to host Emmycast

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS says Neil Patrick Harris is hosting the Emmys again. It's the second go-around for the TV, film and stage star. He last did the honors at the "Prime Time Emmy Awards" in 2009. CBS will air the Emmycast live from Los Angeles on Sept. 22.

But for viewers who just can't wait to see Harris in emcee mode, he'll preside over "The 67th Annual Tony Awards" on CBS on June 9. It's Harris' fourth time hosting that show, which salutes the best of Broadway. Harris currently stars on the hit CBS sitcom "How I Met Your Mother." □

Courtney Cox and David Arquette finalize divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Court records show Courtney Cox and David Arquette have finalized their divorce. A Los Angeles judge approved the couple's break-up Tuesday after nearly 14 years of marriage. Details of their divorce settlement are confidential. Cox and Arquette legally separated on Dec. 31, 2011, about six months before the pair filed for divorce. The couple met while filming "Scream" and announced their split in October 2010. At the time, they said they were committed to raising their daughter together and remained best friends. Cox gained widespread fame for her role on the TV comedy "Friends." Arquette was an executive producer of her recent series, "Cougar Town," and



This June 28, 2011 file photo originally released by InStyle, David Arquette, left, and Courtney Cox attend the Beau Joie Champagne Art Of Elysium Dinner hosted by Rachel Bilson and held at Arquette's home in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press.

has appeared in numerous films, including "Never Been Kissed." The website for People magazine was first to report Wednesday that the divorce is final. □

Justin Bieber investigated for reckless driving



In this Jan. 13, 2013 file photo, Justin Bieber performs during the "I Believe Tour" at the American Airlines Arena in Miami, Florida.

Associated Press

TAMI ABDOLLAH

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles County Sheriff's detectives are investigating Justin Bieber for reckless driving after witnesses — including former National Football League star Keyshawn Johnson — complained about the pop-star's alleged freeway speeds in their gated community in north Los Angeles County. At about 8 p.m. Monday, Bieber allegedly drove his white Ferrari at freeway speeds in what is a 25 mph (40 kph) zone, Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said. Johnson was outside with his 3-year-old daughter who was preparing to get

into a small electric car when Bieber zoomed by. Johnson was upset and got into his Prius, following Bieber to his nearby home. As the garage door was closing, Johnson put out his arm and stopped it, telling Bieber he wanted to talk about his reckless driving. Whitmore said Bieber scurried into his home without speaking. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department received two calls and responded to the location. When they tried to talk to Bieber, however, they were also turned away. "His security detail said he declined to talk to us based on the advice of counsel," Whitmore said. Deputies interviewed two

witnesses, including Johnson, and wrote up their report. They handed that off to detectives who are continuing to investigate the incident. "Their eyewitness testimony to our deputies was definitive — not only the speed, not only the vehicle, but Mr. Bieber was sitting and driving in the driver's side seat," Whitmore said. Deputies plan to send a reckless driving report to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office to consider filing misdemeanor charges in the next week or two. Bieber's publicist did not immediately return a call for comment. Johnson declined to comment via ESPN, where he now works as a TV commentator. □

Five Steps singer Clarence Burke Jr. dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clarence Burke Jr., lead singer of the group the Five Steps that sang the 1970 hit "O-o-h Child," has died. He was 64. His manager, Joe Marno, says Burke died Sunday in Marietta, Georgia, where he lived. The cause of his death was not dis-

closed. Formed in Chicago in 1965, the Five Steps included Burke and four siblings. The group had several hits in the 1960s and '70s, including "You Waited Too Long," "World of Fantasy," and "Don't Change Your Love." The Los Angeles Times says

the group disbanded in the late 1970s but the brothers briefly reformed as the Invisible Man's Band and had a 1980 success with the dance single "All Night Thing." His family says in recent years, Burke performed solo concerts and continued to record. □

Amazon to make 2 original comedies, 3 kids shows

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ama-

zon.com Inc. said Wednesday that it will produce a pair of new comedy shows and three new kids shows for viewing on its video streaming service, capping a one-of-a-kind experiment that gave viewers a say in the selections.

The five shows were culled from 14 pilots that were put up for free on its website and made available over Amazon's video apps on mobile devices and game consoles starting in April. Executives looked at ratings, reviews and view counts in a process that upended traditional TV show development.

Traditional TV studios generally screen pilot episodes before small focus groups and executives before determining which go into production.

The shows announced are Amazon's first original series.

Roy Price, director of Amazon Studios, said he was gratified that the pilots generated hundreds of thousands of views from people in the U.S. and Britain. He said the company looks forward to repeating the process again.

"Once you have hundreds of thousands of people watch a specific pilot, you're not talking about a focus group anymore,"



This undated file image provided by Amazon shows actors Joe Dinicol, left, and Sarah Stouffer in a scene from an episode of "Betas," one of 14 TV show pilots being made by Amazon.com Inc.

Associated Press

Price said in a phone interview from Amazon's Seattle headquarters. "You're asking your actual audience how they feel about it."

The comedies selected include "Alpha House," created by Garry Trudeau and starring John Goodman. It's about four senators who rent a house together in Washington.

Meanwhile, "Betas" follows four friends and the new mobile social networking app they are developing.

The new kids shows are "Annebots," which centers on

a young scientist and her robot helpers, "Creative Galaxy," an animated series, and "Tumbleleaf," which is aimed at preschoolers.

Amazon has been trying to develop movies and TV shows based on thousands of scripts it has received since soliciting them in November 2010, although only one of the 14 pilots made for viewer feedback came out of that process.

It was "Those Who Can't" and wasn't ultimately selected.

Another show that didn't make the cut was "Zombieland," which came from the creators of the hit Columbia Pictures movie of the same name. Price said it is possible for some failed pilots to be reworked and tested again.

Price said that 10 episodes will be made for each of the two comedies. Amazon has yet to determine how many episodes of each kids show will be made. The series are to air in the U.S., Britain and Germany later this year or next year.

Other than some possible free sampling, the videos will be made available only to subscribers of Amazon Prime, the online retailer's \$79-a-year membership plan.

Amazon Prime also provides customers with free two-day shipping on certain items bought at Amazon.com, a book borrowing club and other videos to watch. Amazon is still considering whether to release all the episodes for a season at once — the way Netflix Inc. has done with its original series such as "Arrested Development" — or to release them in spurts or one at a time.

Amazon competes in subscription video with such services as Netflix and Hulu Plus, which have made their own significant forays into original programming. But Amazon has an added motivation to get people to sign up for Prime memberships, which make them more likely to purchase other things from Amazon. Although Netflix didn't have subscribers watch pilots before committing to a full season, the service has extensive data on viewer habits.

With "Arrested Development," Netflix studied how the first three seasons performed on its service after the series' cancellation by Fox in 2006. □



This April 1, 2013 photo shows talk show host Larry King attending a season-opening baseball game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Francisco Giants in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Larry King to host a new political talk TV show

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Larry

King is returning to TV with a political talk show beginning next month.

The new program, "Politics With Larry King," will air on the RT America network, a global, English-language channel based in Russia, the network announced Wednesday. No premiere date or broadcast schedule was specified.

RT said it will also telecast

"Larry King Now," which debuted online on Hulu and Ora.TV last summer.

Both programs will originate from Washington and Los Angeles. They will continue to stream on the Hulu and Ora.TV websites and will be available on rt.com. RT America will be the exclusive U.S. broadcaster for both programs.

"I have always been passionate about government and issues that impact the public," said King, adding,

"I appreciate the importance of providing a platform with real alternative visions for our country's future."

The suspenders-sporting King, who turns 80 this year, hosted a weeknight talk show on CNN for 25 years before it ended in December 2010.

RT America is carried in the U.S. by cable providers including Time Warner Inc., Cox Cable, Comcast Corp. and Verizon FiOS. □

Heroes Of Uncertainty



DAVID BROOKS
© 2013 New York Times

We're living in an empirical age. The most impressive intellectual feats have been achieved by physicists and biologists, and these fields have established a distinctive model of credibility. To be an authoritative figure, you want to be coolly scientific. You want to possess an arcane body of technical expertise. You want your mind to be a neutral instrument capable of processing complex quantifiable data. The people in the human sciences have tried to piggyback on this authority model. For example, the American Psychiatric Association has just released the fifth edition of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders. It is the basic handbook of the field. It defines the known mental diseases. It creates stable standards, so that insurance companies can recognize various diagnoses and be comfortable with the medications prescribed to treat them. The recent editions of this manual exude an impressive aura of scientific authority. They treat mental diseases like diseases of the heart and liver. They leave the impression that you should go to your psychiatrist because she has a vast body of technical knowledge that will allow her to solve your problems. With their austere neutrality, they leave a distinct impression: Psychiatrists are methodically treating symptoms, not people.

The problem is that the behavioral sciences like psychiatry are not really sciences; they are semi-sciences. The underlying reality they describe is just not as regularized as the underlying reality of, say, a solar system.

As the handbook's many critics have noted, psychiatrists use terms like "mental disorder" and "normal behavior," but there is no agreement on what these concepts mean. When you look at the definitions psychiatrists habitually use to define various ailments, you see that they contain vague words that wouldn't pass muster in any actual scientific analysis: "excessive," "binge," "anxious."

Mental diseases are not really understood the way, say, liver diseases are understood, as a pathology of the body and its tissues and cells. Researchers understand the underlying structure of very few mental ailments. What psychiatrists call a disease is usually just a label for a group

of symptoms. As the eminent psychiatrist Allen Frances writes in his book, "Saving Normal," a word like schizophrenia is a useful construct, not a disease: "It is a description of a particular set of psychiatric problems, not an explanation of their cause."

Furthermore, psychiatric phenomena are notoriously protean in nature. Medicines seem to work but then stop. Because the mind is an irregular cosmos, psychiatry hasn't been able to make the rapid progress that has become normal in physics and biology. As Martin Seligman, a past president of the American Psychological Association, put it in The Washington Post early this year, "I have found that drugs and therapy offer disappointingly little additional help for the mentally ill than they did 25 years ago - despite billions of dollars in funding."

All of this is not to damn people in the mental health fields. On the contrary, they are heroes who alleviate the most elusive of all suffering, even though they are overmatched by the complexity and variability of the problems that confront them. I just wish they would portray themselves as they really are. Psychiatrists are not heroes of science. They are heroes of uncertainty, using improvisation, knowledge and artistry to improve people's lives. The field of psychiatry is better in practice than it is in theory. The best psychiatrists are not austere technical, like the official handbook's approach; they combine technical expertise with personal knowledge. They are daring adapters, perpetually adjusting in ways more imaginative than scientific rigor.

The best psychiatrists are not coming up with abstract rules that homogenize treatments. They are combining an awareness of common patterns with an acute attention to the specific circumstances of a unique human being. They certainly are not inventing new diseases in order to medicalize the moderate ailments of the worried well.

If the authors of the psychiatry manual want to invent a new disease, they should put Physics Envy in their handbook. The desire to be more like the hard sciences has distorted economics, education, political science, psychiatry and other behavioral fields. It's led practitioners to claim more knowledge than they can possibly have. It's devalued a certain sort of hybrid mentality that is better suited to these realms, the mentality that has one foot in the world of science and one in the liberal arts, that involves bringing multiple vantage points to human behavior. Hippocrates once observed, "It's more important to know what sort of person has a disease than to know what sort of disease a person has." That's certainly true in the behavioral sciences and in policymaking generally, though these days it is often a neglected truth. □



The Obamacare Shock



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2013 New York Times

The Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, goes fully into effect at the beginning of next year, and predictions of disaster are being heard far and wide. There will be an administrative "train wreck," we're told; consumers will face a terrible shock. Republicans, one hears, are already counting on the law's troubles to give them a big electoral advantage.

No doubt there will be problems, as there are with any large new government initiative, and in this case, we have the added complication that many Republican governors and legislators are doing all they can to sabotage reform. Yet important new evidence - especially from California, the law's most important test case - suggests that the real Obamacare shock will be one of unexpected success.

Before I can explain what the news means, I need to make a crucial point: Obamacare is a deeply conservative reform, not in a political sense (although it was originally a Republican proposal) but in terms of leaving most peoples' health care unaffected. Americans who receive health insurance from their employers, Medicare or Medicaid - which is to say, the vast majority of those who have any kind of health insurance at all - will see almost no changes when the law goes into effect.

There are, however, millions of Americans who don't receive

insurance either from their employers or from government programs. They can get insurance only by buying it on their own, and many of them are effectively shut out of that market. In some states, like California, insurers reject applicants with past medical problems. In others, like New York, insurers can't reject applicants, and must offer similar coverage regardless of personal medical history ("community rating"); unfortunately, this leads to a situation in which premiums are very high because only those with current health problems sign up, while healthy people take the risk of going uninsured.

Obamacare closes this gap with a three-part approach. First, community rating everywhere - no more exclusion based on pre-existing conditions. Second, the "mandate" - you must buy insurance even if you're currently healthy. Third, subsidies to make insurance affordable for those with lower incomes.

Massachusetts has had essentially this system since 2006; as a result, nearly all residents have health insurance, and the program remains very popular. So we know that Obamacare - or, as some of us call it, Obama-RomneyCare - can work.

Skeptics argued, however, that Massachusetts was special: it had relatively few uninsured residents even before the reform, and it already had community rating. What would happen elsewhere? In particular, what would happen in California, where more than a fifth of the nonelderly population is uninsured, and the individual insurance market is largely unregulated? Would there be "sticker shock" as the price of individual policies soared?

Well, the California bids are in - that is, insurers have submitted the prices at which they are willing to offer coverage on the state's newly created Obam-

acare exchange. And the prices, it turns out, are surprisingly low. A handful of healthy people may find themselves paying more for coverage, but it looks as if Obamacare's first year in California is going to be an overwhelmingly positive experience. What can still go wrong? Well, Obamacare is a complicated program, basically because simpler options, like Medicare for all, weren't considered politically feasible. So there will probably be a lot of administrative confusion as the law goes into effect, again especially in states where Republicans have been doing their best to sabotage the process.

Also, some people are too poor to afford coverage even with the subsidies. These Americans were supposed to be covered by a federally financed expansion of Medicaid, but in states where Republicans have blocked Medicaid expansion, such unfortunates will be left out in the cold.

Still, here's what it seems is about to happen: millions of Americans will suddenly gain health coverage, and millions more will feel much more secure knowing that such coverage is available if they lose their jobs or suffer other misfortunes. Only a relative handful of people will be hurt at all. And as contrasts emerge between the experience of states like California that are making the most of the new policy and that of states like Texas whose politicians are doing their best to undermine it, the sheer meanspiritedness of the Obamacare opponents will become ever more obvious.

So yes, it does look as if there's an Obamacare shock coming: the shock of learning that a public program designed to help a lot of people can, strange to say, end up helping a lot of people - especially when government officials actually try to make it work. □



The Full Package

Yucatan-style fish on a bed of banana leaves served with rice and beans. (Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)

DAVID TANIS

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - For a moment last week, the weather turned humid and sweltering, spot-on summer weather. Sidewalk cafes were bursting with drinkers and diners. No one was wearing a coat, or much of a shirt. Bare legs and flip-flops returned. And appetites turned summery, my own included. These steamy, near-tropical sunny afternoons make me want to cook Mexican fare, and more specifically, the food of the Yucatán Peninsula. Full disclosure: A few weeks ago, I made a quick getaway beach trip there, and the simple, flavorful food seemed just right for summer, and for the barbecue as well. I came home hungry for more.

Yucatecan fare differs from other Mexican food. It is a cuisine rooted in the cooking of the native Maya people, crossed with that of the many conquerors who passed through. The ingredients there are rather particular; among them is achiote, also called annatto, a hard seed that imparts a delicious musky flavor and bright color to many marinades.

Achiote is at its best in the company of garlic and hot chilies, along with an assortment of pungent spices, ground to a paste. The thick red sauce is diluted with the juice of sour oranges and tiny

limes. The Yucatecan custom is to coat fish with the spice mixture and wrap it in banana leaves with pickled onions before cooking. Fish prepared this way is always wonderfully moist, and the banana



Fish is coated in spices and wrapped and bound with banana leaves for a Yucatan-style dish, in New York, May 21, 2013. Using banana leaves as a wrapper for fish makes the perfect parcel for grilling or pit roasting and adds a subtle aroma and taste. (Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)

leaves, aside from making the ideal parcel for grilling or pit roasting, add a subtle aroma and taste.

For smaller pieces of fish, the packages can be cooked directly on a hot griddle or grill and be ready rather quickly. Larger fillets or whole fish work better in an oven or a covered grill, and will take 30 minutes to an hour to bake. The fish will steam a bit more as it rests before the package is

opened.

To accompany the fish, serve rice and black beans cooked with the pungent herb epazote, and a chunky onion and tomato salsa heavy with chopped serrano chilies and

opened. To accompany the fish, serve rice and black beans cooked with the pungent herb epazote, and a chunky onion and tomato salsa heavy with chopped serrano chilies and cilantro. And extra limes. If you're in the mood, pan-fry some slices of ripe plantain until golden and toss some salt in their direction. The fish looks gorgeous served straight from the banana leaf package, and the flat green squares make good plates, too. It's casual. Pop open a cold beer and ease into summer.

YUCATÁN FISH (TIKIN XIC)

Time: 1 hour, 30 minutes, plus 45 minutes' marinating

Yield: 6 servings

1 medium red onion, thinly sliced

Salt and pepper

1 serrano pepper, sliced or chopped

Salt and pepper

1/2 cup orange juice

1/4 cup lime juice, more as needed

2 teaspoons achiote (annatto) powder, available in Latino and Indian markets

Pinch of cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon dried Mexican oregano

1/4 teaspoon chipotle chili

1/2 teaspoon cumin seed

1/2 teaspoon cloves

6 allspice berries

4 garlic cloves, smashed to a paste

1 3/4 pounds grouper or sea bass fillet, skin on

Banana leaves, available in Latino and Asian markets, or use baking parchment or foil

2 ripe tomatoes, sliced into wedges

1. Make the pickled onions: Put onion in a bowl and season generously with salt and pepper. Add serrano, 3 tablespoons orange juice and 2 tablespoons lime juice, then mix well. Set aside for at least 15 minutes. Combine and reserve remaining citrus juice for marinade.

2. Make the marinade: Put achiote, cinnamon, oregano and chipotle in a small stain-

less steel or glass bowl. In a small dry skillet over medium heat, lightly toast cumin, cloves and allspice until fragrant, 1 minute or less. Grind toasted spices to a powder in a spice mill or mortar, then add to other spices. Add garlic, 1 large pinch salt and remaining citrus juice and stir to make a paste. If very thick, add more lime juice. (Note: achiote may stain surfaces or clothing.)

3. Season fish on both sides with salt and pepper. Using a sharp knife, score skin at thickest parts, if desired. Paint fish on both sides with marinade. Squeeze a little lime juice over fish. Chill for 45 minutes (or up to 2 hours).

4. Bring fish to room temperature and heat oven to 425 degrees. Cut banana leaves crosswise into foot-long lengths and soften by passing them briefly over a stovetop burner. Rinse leaves and pat dry. Lay a double thickness of leaves on a baking sheet and lay fish on it, skin side down. Top fish with a large handful of pickled onions. Arrange tomato wedges over onions. Sprinkle with salt and a little more lime juice. Lay more leaves on top, then wrap like a package, tying with string or strips of leaf. Bake for 25 minutes, then remove and let package rest, unopened, for 15 minutes. Serve with remaining pickled onions. □